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THE TIMES

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93043

Prison staff try to revive Frederick West after he is found hanged

Cromwell St murders case man is dead

By BILL FROST

FREDERICK WEST, the Gloucester builder accused of the murder of 12 women, including two of his own daughters and his first wife, was found hanged in a prison cell yesterday afternoon.

Officers at Winslow Green Prison, Birmingham, discovered West's body at 12.55pm and attempted to revive him without success. He was pronounced dead half an hour later.

West, of 25 Cromwell Street, Gloucester — dubbed the House of Horror — had been in custody since April 7 last year. His trial was not due to begin until the spring of 1996.

A Prison Service spokesman said: "The police have been called in and we are inquiring into the circumstances. He was found by staff who attempted to resuscitate him and a doctor certified death at 1.22pm."

A spokesman for West Midlands police said that there were no suspicious circumstances involved in the death. He confirmed that the inquiry would consider security and prisoner surveillance procedures at the jail.

Inspector David Morgan of Gloucestershire police said: "We can confirm that the deputy governor of Winslow Green advised us at about 1.40 this afternoon that Frederick West was found dead in his cell. The circumstances surrounding the death will be investigated by the coroner for the district and West Midlands police."

West, 53, and his wife Rosemary, 41, were jointly charged with the murders of nine women who disappeared between 1973 and 1987.

West was also accused of killing his first wife Catherine, who was found buried in Letterbox Field, Kempey, near Gloucester; their 8-year-old daughter Charmaine,



whose remains were found at his former home at 25 Midland Road, Gloucester; and Scottish childminder Anne McFall, whose body was also unearthed on farmland near Kempey.

Relatives of his alleged victims last night greeted news of the apparent suicide with jubilation. Joan Owen, 52, the mother of 17-year-old Alison Chambers, whose body was among those found at Cromwell Street, said that West's apparent suicide was "the only good thing he ever did".

"This is the best news I've heard for a long time," she said. "After all the evil things he did, this must be the only good thing he ever did. Anyone who can do what he did and then walk around and act as if nothing happened is truly evil."

Chris Davis, who is married to West's daughter Anna-Maria, described the news as "a great relief". Mr Davis added: "He will not be in hell for what he did. He deserves everything that is waiting for him."

Tony Miles, West's solicitor, said: "We have heard this afternoon that Mr West has died whilst in custody. The full circumstances are not yet known. We can make no further comment."

Committal proceedings against West and his wife were due to begin at Dursley, Gloucestershire, on February 6. The couple last appeared in court together on December

13, when the committal date was fixed. Mrs West was told of her husband's death yesterday afternoon.

Her solicitor Leo Goatley, who is based in Gloucester, went to visit her in the women's wing at Pucklechurch prison, near Bristol. He said he could not comment on how West's death might affect her case.

George Howarth, Labour's spokesman on prisons, said last night that West's death pointed up a "sad lack" of supervision by prison staff. "There is a real security problem and the Home Secretary seems complacent about it. The point I am making is that this is part of a general pattern of a lack of security in the service," he added.

A former inmate of Winslow Green prison said that West was watched around the clock by warders and his cell was regularly searched.

Stephen Palmer, 25, an engineer from Kings Heath, Birmingham, who served six months for burglary and was released just before Christmas, said: "I was really, really surprised when I heard that he had killed himself. He was watched day and night and everywhere he went he was accompanied by two prison guards and he was never left alone."

"At lights out his cell was carefully checked and sometimes it was turned over with a fine tooth comb. The rest of his room was virtually bare."

West's arrest triggered one of the biggest police investigations of modern times. He was detained on February 25 last year with his wife by detectives investigating the disappearance of their 16-year-old daughter Heather. She was last seen alive in 1987.

On February 26 last year police using mini-diggers found Heather's remains bur-



Frederick West joking with policemen after one of his appearances in court

ied under a patio in the small back garden of West's home. Within days, two more bodies had been found.

One of the bodies was identified as Shirley Ann Robinson, a former lodger at Cromwell Street. She was 18 and pregnant at the time of her disappearance. The third victim was not immediately identified and more grim discoveries were to follow.

On March 5, police found two more sets of human

remains in the cellar area at Cromwell Street. A day later a sixth body was found, also in the cellar, and a seventh on March 7. At the same time they also announced plans to begin digging at other locations connected with West.

Nine bodies were eventually unearthed at Cromwell Street. Another was found at West's old home in Midland Road, Gloucester. Two more sets of human remains were discovered in fields at Kempey. The

huge investigation put an immense strain on the resources of the Gloucestershire police. West's death came only days after the Home Office rejected a plea by the force for a £651,000 emergency grant towards the huge cost of the inquiry. Police recruitment in the county has been frozen as the force struggles to meet the bill, which has already topped £1.3 million.

House of horror, page 3

Girl's death may lead to reform of 'deplorable' ambulances

By NICHOLAS WOOD, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE death of a little girl who had to wait nearly an hour for an ambulance is likely to bring a big shake-up of London's emergency services.

Virginia Bottomley, the Health Secretary, intends to use an official report on the death of Nasima Begum, 11, as a catalyst for sweeping reforms of the service aimed at curbing union power and overhauling a moribund system of management.

In an interview with *The Times*, Mrs Bottomley said she regarded Nasima's death from kidney failure last June despite repeated emergency calls from her family as the latest in a series of "deplorable" events surrounding the London Ambulance Service (LAS). She made it clear that she would take urgent action to overhaul the service once she received a report from a panel led by William Wells, chairman of South Thames Regional Health Authority.

The report will cover working practices, including shift times and changeovers, holidays and absenteeism.

Mrs Bottomley said an internal inquiry had shown already that, on the night in question, only 12 vehicles out of a theoretical maximum of 18 were on duty, and three went before the end of the shift.

She said: "I think the time now is right for management and the unions in the LAS to realise they have to change. The public must have a decent service. The absentee rates are unacceptable. The arrangements for rostering are archaic and there are no arrangements for repairing vehicles overnight."

"I am clear that the standard of service taken for granted in other parts of the country, such as Birmingham and Northumbria, should be available for Londoners... it has been a deplorable series of

events and, while there have been significant improvements, the service is still too accident-prone."

The Wells report, due by the middle of this month, is likely to place a question mark over the future of Martin Gorham, the LAS chief executive. Senior Health Department sources said the LAS was "one of the last bastions of the old trade-union dominated health service", and a big change in attitudes and practice was needed. According to the Patient's Charter, in built-up



Nasima Begum: fatal wait for ambulance

areas an ambulance should arrive at the scene of a casualty within 14 minutes in 95 per cent of cases. Nasima, from Aldgate, east London, had to wait 53 minutes. The LAS achieves the official standard in only 65 per cent of cases.

John Boast, an LAS branch secretary of Unison, the health workers' union, said: "These people who make accusations against ambulance crews never have to face what we face. There are times when there just aren't enough vehicles for the amount of calls."

Family's anger, page 2
Leading article, page 13

Blair in school fees VAT row

Tony Blair yesterday told David Blunkett, the Shadow Education Secretary, that he would not be allowed to consider imposing VAT on private school fees. The decision followed a furious reaction to Mr Blunkett's suggestion that Labour was considering the tax which would add £1,700 to the average boarding school fee.

Labour leaders claimed that the issue has been confused with moves to withdraw charitable status from private schools. Page 2

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Russians claim to control Grozny after fierce battle

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN IN MOSCOW

Russians and Chechens were still fighting in the burning ruins of Grozny last night after Moscow claimed its troops had surrounded the Chechen capital and taken control of the city centre.

Some reports said President Dudaev, the Chechen leader, was still in a cellar beneath the palace, but Russia said he was in a bunker on the city outskirts.

Pavel Grachev, the Russian Defence Minister, said Russian forces had gained ground yesterday, but had yet to seize complete control of the city. A government press service communiqué quoted the Minister as saying: "The entire city centre and districts of the city and its outskirts are under complete control of Russian forces."

But Chechen forces are still fighting in several residential areas and General Grachev said it would take five or six days "to rid the city of bandits and complete the operation to seize their weapons."

The press service also claimed yesterday that General Dudaev was in a bunker on the outskirts of Grozny where, it said, he was having trouble making radio contact with his forces. They were said to be running low on ammunition. Russian parliamentary deputies who had been visiting

Chechnya said after their escape to the neighbouring republic of Dagestan that, in the initial push, Russian tanks had reached the square in front of the Presidential Palace before being destroyed. The deputies said the bodies of the crew were still inside the tanks.

One witness said he had seen at least nine Russian tanks destroyed and three captured by the Chechens. The Russians were pouring in artillery, tank and rocket fire to clear a way for their troops.

The rebel government, yesterday made fresh appeals to Chechens to come to Grozny's defence, and hundreds appeared to be answering the call. Maulavli Udugov, the Chechen Information Minister, said on television: "We

appeal to all Chechens: take up your arms and come to Grozny. Today we should solve the problem of the Russian occupation once and for all."

The Chechen Government claims to have captured up to 100 Russian prisoners and to have destroyed 70 armoured vehicles since the assault on the city began on New Year's Eve just under three weeks after the Russians moved into the Caucasus region to end its secession. Most of the city centre has been destroyed in the fighting or in bombing raids, and is under a pall of smoke from burning houses and an oil refinery on the edge of the city.



Dudaev: "in a bunker on outskirts of city"

In Moscow, Russians celebrated the New Year holiday as normal. The independent television channel NTV, which has increasingly criticised the Chechen operation and the Yeltsin administration, made no mention of the Russian offensive during its gala presentation on Saturday night. Journalists, liberal politicians, and entertainers mingled and delivered anodyne good wishes to their compatriots. As correspondents in Moscow turned to the BBC and other Western stations for the news, on NTV an army choir was belting out the Tom Jones hit, "Delilah".

The AA said about 100 cars were held up by snow on the A4086 near Llanberis, Gwynedd, north Wales, and in Cambridgeshire about 20 cars were involved in a pile-up on the A1 near Little Paxton.

The north of Scotland was

SLEET, snow and hail hit much of the country yesterday, followed by a heavy overnight frost. The freezing temperatures, strong winds and scattered blizzards pose hazardous conditions for drivers across Britain at the start of the new year.

Forecasters say temperatures will remain below freezing across most of the country apart from sheltered areas of Devon and Cornwall today and there will be further snow showers. Motoring organisations warned drivers to take extra care.

"Motorists could not have faced a worse possible start to the new year," said the RAC. Among the worst hit roads were those in northern Scotland and south east England with traffic at a standstill on the M2, M20, and A249 in Kent for a time last night.

Motorists on the M25 and M11 in Essex faced settling snow, while in Wiltshire it brought traffic to a halt near the Membury services.

In Staffordshire the speed of vehicles on the M54 and M6 were reduced to 20mph and motorists on the M69 and M1 in Leicestershire also faced poor conditions.

Freeze adds to danger on snow-covered roads

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

the worst affected with heavy snow showers and high winds hitting Grampian and the northern coast.

The London Weather Centre said there would be another heavy frost tonight with icy patches on roads tomorrow. Milder weather would move in later from the west and rain is expected by Thursday.

The Midlands, Cambridgeshire and South East England will only reach 2-3°C today, although winds of the sea in Cornwall and Devon may mean exposed regions have temperatures of 4°C.

The A66 trans-Pennine route was only passable yesterday with cars following two inches of snow; the A6 near Penrith was closed to traffic, and the Kirkstone Pass in Cumbria was shut.

High tides caused flooding along the Norfolk and Suffolk coasts. In Whitby, North Yorkshire, mountainous waves crashed over sea defences and flooded homes, affecting hundreds of people in the town and surrounding villages. At Sandstead, waves were as high as 40 feet.

Red flood alerts were issued yesterday by the National Rivers Authority for Whitby and Immingham, Humberside. There was also flooding in East Anglia near Southwold and Oulton Broad.

Forecast, page 16

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Blair tells Blunkett to backtrack over VAT on school fees

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY
AND JOHN O'LEARY

TONY Blair suffered a political embarrassment yesterday when he had to force David Blunkett, his education spokesman, to withdraw a pledge that Labour was considering imposing VAT on private school fees.

The Labour leadership moved quickly to overrule Mr Blunkett after he said that the introduction of VAT, which would add £1,700 to the average boarding school fee of £9,780, was a possibility. Mr Blair and Gordon Brown, Labour's Shadow Chancellor, insisted that Mr Blunkett reappear on radio to make clear that the party had already thrown out plans to add VAT for private schooling.

Mr Blunkett had originally said on BBC Radio: "I'm ruling nothing out at this stage because we want to look at the two issues of charitable status and VAT on private school fees together so that we can see what would be fairest."

Within hours, Mr Blunkett was back on air saying: "The Shadow Chancellor and the leader of the party think it is helpful to rule out that possibility in order to avoid confusion."

Labour figures made clear



Blunkett: asked to clarify "confusion"

that the issue of VAT was for Mr Brown, not Mr Blunkett to comment on, and that the party's Treasury team decided in September not to pursue the VAT option.

It is the second time in a month that Mr Blair has been forced on to the defensive on education policy. Last month, Mr Blair was accused of hypocrisy when it was disclosed that he had applied to send his son to a grant-maintained school. Mr Blair and Mr Blunkett announced that they were drawing up plans to retain existing grant-maintained schools, despite the party's previous opposition to allowing schools to opt out of local authority control.

This time Tories were quick to point to a frontbench Labour split. Jeremy Hanley, the Tory party chairman, said: "Labour's policies are degenerating into farce. In the morning they say they want to put VAT on independent education. By lunchtime, after a fierce squabble within the Shadow Cabinet, they decide that they do not."

"Clearly Mr Blunkett is out of step with Mr Blair. Since Mr Blair is unwilling to back him, and has humiliated him so publicly, he should sack him."

Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, attacked the idea as "taxation on choice" and accused Labour of the "politics of envy".

Senior Labour figures insisted there had been a misunderstanding rather than a rift on the front bench. They said that the VAT confusion was a side issue to Mr Blunkett's main point — that independent schools should not be given the privilege of charitable status, allowing them a tax break.

Mr Blunkett said that ordinary families were having to pay through their taxes for tax breaks for the rich who sent children to schools where fees could be as high as £10,000 a year.

"You can't convince a family that's facing a planned cut in government spending of almost £800 million across the country, with their class sizes rising, with their children's education being undermined, that they should contribute through their taxes because we treat Eton and Harrow as though they were equivalent to Oxfam," he said.

Labour is already committed to ending the assisted places scheme which funds children from less well off backgrounds to attend private schools. Although Labour dropped its threat to independent schools' charity status before the last election, it has always been committed to abolishing assisted places.

David Woodhead, the National Director of the Independent Schools Information Service, said: "Labour may not realise it, but most independent schools are not hugely endowed. This would be a serious threat to many of them."

A survey by the last election showed that the schools disburse £1.34 in scholarships and bursaries for every £1 they save through charitable status.

Roy Chapman, who handed over chairmanship of the Headmasters' Conference yesterday, said: "My own view is that the removal of charitable status would be seen as doctrinaire, old-fashioned socialist politics, which would be a big vote loser for Labour."



Nasima's parents, Haji Rahman and Hazera Begum, with a photograph of their daughter. "We are still angry with Virginia Bottomley"

Reforms too late, say dead girl's family

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

THE family of a girl who died after an ambulance took almost an hour to reach her said yesterday that Virginia Bottomley's promised reforms had come too late. "Whatever intentions she has, it's not going to bring my sister back," Reba Begum said. "I think we had a sympathy letter from Virginia Bottomley and the ambulance people apologised over and over. It hasn't done any good."

The family has struggled to cope with the loss of Nasima, who was known as Beauty. "My mother is feeling terrible," Reba said. "There hasn't been a day that she doesn't cry

for my sister." Nasima was the youngest of six. "Although we don't celebrate Christmas because of our religion, it has been a very difficult time for us because Nasima was with us this time last year and now she's not here," her sister Shabana, 15, said. "There are a lot of memories."

Nasima died at the Royal London Hospital in Whitechapel, which is only four minutes by ambulance from her home. Her family dialled 999 four times after she collapsed on an evening in June. Her brother telephoned at 10.41pm and told the emergency operator that Nasima had nethritic syndrome and was delirious. The operator said: "We have not got an ambulance

to send." An ambulance finally arrived at 11.34pm.

As she was taken away, Nasima told her mother: "Don't worry Mum, I'll be back." She was admitted to hospital at 11.38pm but died of kidney failure three hours later. Although nephritic syndrome is not normally fatal, Nasima suffered from a rare complication which needed treatment within 20 minutes.

Conservative politicians have highlighted the scandal to attack the power of the ambulance unions, while Labour has used Nasima's death to criticise the Government. Her parents have condemned MPs on both sides for making capital out of the loss of their daughter.

and accused them of shedding crocodile tears. Haji Rahman, Nasima's father, says he is still angry with Mrs Bottomley over his daughter's death. "What they are doing now is a bit late," he said. "If they had done it before, my daughter would be alive."

Pride of place on the living room wall goes to a framed poem composed and handwritten by Nasima shortly before her death. She wrote: "Sometimes I wonder why I have to be in a world that I so much hate to see. At times I wonder why it is that the world I love is like this."

Ambulance shake-up, page 1
Leading article, page 13

Labour faces split over nuclear shift

By OUR POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Labour leadership faces an internal dispute after announcing yesterday that it is reconsidering its opposition to nuclear power.

At its autumn conference the party reaffirmed the policy to phase out nuclear power stations but Martin O'Neill, its energy spokesman, said yesterday that continued use of nuclear power was possible under a Labour government. He signalled a shift away from the manifesto commitment at the last election, when the party pledged not to invest in the nuclear power industry or to extend the lives of existing stations.

Explaining the shift, Mr O'Neill said: "The generating choices which we will have to address, perhaps in four or five years from now, are of a different order from the ones that we had when we fought the last election." He cited the smaller coal industry and the likely increases in gas prices but claimed that the party's environmental commitments had not diminished.

However, Eric Clarke, Labour MP for Midlothian and a

former miners' union leader, gave warning that a change to the policy would be strongly fought by MPs. "I would be rather annoyed and so would be quite a few of us in Parliament. I don't think the policy should be changed, and there should be a moratorium on any nuclear power."

Labour came under attack from environmental groups yesterday for the move but Mr O'Neill insisted that there were no definite plans to retain power stations. "Down the line, nuclear is a possibility but it is a fairly remote one," he told BBC Radio 4's *The World This Week*.

The suggestion that the party is prepared to reconsider its position follows the appointment of Dr Jack Cunningham, one of the party's most ardent supporters of the industry, to the post of Shadow Trade and Industry Secretary. Dr Cunningham, whose Copeland constituency includes the Sellafield nuclear plant, has long argued for protection of the industry, on which up to 150,000 jobs are said to be dependent.

Town hall socialists told to change

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY

TONY Blair has ordered a campaign to press left-wing councillors to adopt forward-thinking policies.

Mr Blair is determined that the party must be able to refuse claims from Tories and Liberal Democrats that di-hard socialist councils represent "the true face of Labour".

Despite Labour's opinion poll lead, senior figures fear that their opponents will try to tarnish the party's image by campaigning on the failings of some of its councils. In the run-up to May's local elections, Liberal Democrats will claim that at council level it can be seen that Labour works closely with unions, wastes public money and is opposed to open government.

While the Labour leader-

ship is satisfied with the work of most councils it controls, it is aware that some councillors are resisting changes backed by party leaders. "There is very little gap between good Labour and Tory councils but there is a larger gap between bad councils of the two parties. We have got to make sure that some of the worst do not become a liability," one frontbencher said.

Labour strategists are particularly worried that some of the councils have failed to move swiftly enough in contracting out services, ensuring that decisions are made in public and making staff directly accountable to the public. Doug Henderson, Labour's spokesman for public service, will draw up plans to encour-

age new policies at local level. With nearly 11,000 council seats up for election in England alone — more than twice as many as last year — all three main parties see the May elections as an important test of public opinion.

Councils in Liverpool, London, Sheffield, Rochdale, Hull and Oldham will bear the brunt of the Liberal Democrat attack as Paddy Ashdown's party aims to undermine Labour's urban strongholds by emphasising Labour councils' extravagance. Liberal Democrats slightly increased their share of metropolitan district seats at Labour's expense last year. However, in the long term, Labour is more concerned about Tory party strategy in

pointing to Labour's local government failures as evidence that Labour could not be trusted in power nationally.

Mr Blair wants to persuade the large public sector unions to adopt more progressive policies, including contracting out of services, by having locally-agreed arrangements with councils. However, senior Labour figures recognise that they risk alienating national union leaders if the plans are seen as undermining their influence.

"The large unions have moved forward in the manufacturing industries and there is no reason why they can't do the same in the public sector," said one Labour frontbencher.

Peter Riddell, page 12

Law turns blind eye to queue jumpers

By JOHN YOUNG

LONDONERS wearily catching buses back to work tomorrow may be further dispirited by the knowledge that they are no longer legally protected from queue-jumpers jostling them into the gutter.

Or if they or fellow-citizens in any part of England search for bargains in street markets, they will similarly be unable to seek redress if the goods they have purchased turn out to have been stolen.

The arrival of the new year signalled the repeal of a 56-year-old bylaw that made it illegal to stand more than two abreast or to push to the front in London bus queues. From tonight a far more ancient bylaw, whereby market purchasers of stolen property are deemed to have acquired it in good faith, is extinguished.

Forming an orderly queue is assumed to be a British invention. But the only law enshrining it appears to have been enacted on behalf of London Passenger Transport in 1938 which stipulated that passengers must "wait in lines or queues in an orderly manner". The penalty was £2.

As for buying stolen goods in markets, protection for those who have purchased items "in good faith" at a "market overt" anywhere in England is thought to date back to the 12th century. The police say the change will make it much more difficult to dispose of stolen property in street markets.

Leading article, page 13

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Tebbit refuses to snub Tory rebels

By OUR POLITICAL STAFF

LORD Tebbit heightened Tory party tensions yesterday by giving the nine Conservative rebels a public gesture of support for their defiance of the party leadership.

The former party chairman fuelled the internal dispute by offering to visit the constituencies of the dissenting MPs, despite attempts by the party hierarchy to cold-shoulder them. Lord Tebbit made the offer after reports that ministers had been told by Conservative Central Office not to attend speaking engagements that involve rebels.

The former Cabinet minister and arch Euro-sceptic denied that his action flew in the face of John Major's new year plea for unity in which the Prime Minister gave warning that warring factions over Europe could destroy the party from within. Lord Tebbit

said: "I've said that if they find they have functions from which ministers have backed out, then I would fill in."

"What I'm interested in doing is bringing the party back together again. That will not be accomplished by boycotts of this kind." But he refuted the arguments over the decision to withdraw the Tory whip from eight MPs who failed to support the government in a confidence vote. A ninth MP resigned the whip in sympathy. Lord Tebbit said: "The circumstances should not have arisen where they were expelled."

"My view is that there are at least nine Conservative MPs who are simply wildly out of sympathy with the views of the Conservatives in general on the European issue. Unfortunately most of them are members of the Cabinet."

Revellers and police clash

More than a hundred drunken revellers fought with police for 35 minutes after a brawl in a public house split into the streets of Caterham, Surrey, yesterday. Six officers were injured and six men were arrested. In Bournemouth police wearing riot gear dispersed troublemakers and seven were arrested.

Marriage rethink

The Archbishop of York raised the prospect yesterday of a special form of "marriage release" to allow people to remarry in church. Dr John Habgood urged bishops to look at new options.

Newlyweds safe

Nicky Napier-Reynolds, a newlywed woman from Co Durham who went missing in Mexico with her Australian husband, Simon, was reported by a fellow holidaymaker to be safe and well.

Lottery holds first £10m 'super draw'

By ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE National Lottery will have its first "super draw" next Saturday, with a guaranteed jackpot of £10 million, in a marketing move designed to boost flagging sales.

Camelot said it would top up this week's jackpot from a reserve fund it had been building up since the game was launched. "However much money we generate for prizes from ticket sales, we promise to make up the jackpot to £10 million," a spokeswoman said.

Under the terms of its seven-year licence, Camelot is allowed to put a small proportion of its ticket revenue in a reserve fund, to be used to contribute to the occasional "super draw". The fund stands at an estimated £3 million, about 1 per cent of sales in the first six weeks. Camelot can choose to hold a

"super draw" when it wants but must seek approval from the lottery regulator first. The spokeswoman said such draws would be an occasional feature of the game.

Although ticket sales continue to be ahead of the Government's and Camelot's initial expectations, with the weekly jackpot more than three times the £2 million forecast before the game was launched, sales dropped by around 3 per cent last week because many retailers were shut for the Christmas bank holidays. Another Bank Holiday this week is also expected to depress sales.

Fire leaves revellers feeling sheepish

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

A GROUP of partygoers dressed as sheep suffered burns when their fancy dress costumes caught fire at a New Year's Eve party. The flock of nine, who had been celebrating in black leotards covered in puffs of cotton wool, were accidentally set on fire when one of them brushed past a lighted cigarette.

The flames spread quickly through the party as each sheep rushed to help his fellow drinker. A man wearing a blue Bo-Peep dress tried to stamp out the fire as the victims rolled on the ground.

Thick glue on the outfits caused burns to the backs and faces of five men and two women, who needed hospital treatment. The women and a man were later transferred to a specialist burns unit at Frenchay Hospital, Bristol. The private

party of 70 people, all in their early 20s, had been celebrating in the bar of the Woodbine Inn in Cirencester, Gloucestershire.

The pubman, who asked not to be named, said: "By the time seven of them had caught fire they were walking infernos. One touched a cigarette, the others rushed to his help, and within a matter of seconds they were all alight."

"I thought at first the decorations were on fire, but when I saw someone in a sheep outfit rush past the bar with his costume burning, I knew it was more serious. I grabbed the fire extinguisher and used it on him. When you are in charge of a pub it is second nature to act quickly."

"Everyone tried to help, but some people suffered burns to their hands. The flames seemed to be spreading every-

where and the costumes were burning so quickly because the glue was highly flammable. It was lucky the bar was not as packed as it was last year or we could have had a real tragedy."

He added: "All the regulars were there and they acted very sensibly. No one panicked and everyone tried their best to help. Two of those in sheep outfits were unhurt." The rest of the party of 70 were in various fancy dress costumes.

A spokesman for Cirencester Hospital said the injuries were not life-threatening and all of the party, including those at Frenchay Hospital, were discharged yesterday afternoon.

A Gloucestershire ambulance service spokesman said: "We had a call to say some sheep were on fire. It was the most unusual emergency we have dealt with through the whole of 1994."

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West's friends thought him easy-going but his arrest revealed a darker side

Jekyll and Hyde who ruled over eerily silent family

By ALEXANDRA FREAN

TO MOST of those who knew him, Frederick West was a jovial, easy-going and likeable family man. But his address at 25 Cromwell Street, Gloucester, became even more notorious than 10 Rillington Place, home of the mass murderer John Christie, after West was charged with the murder of 12 women and girls.

Only after his arrest was a darker side of West's personality revealed. His brother-in-law, Graham Letts, described a hard-hearted man who encouraged West's 16-year-old daughter Heather to have sexual intercourse to prove that she was not a lesbian and who subjected his children to a cruel and rigorous discipline.

Last night West's sister-in-law, Christine West, expressed the family's bewilderment at the two sides to his character. "Even now, at times we still can't believe all that has happened. The Fred we remember is a kind, gentle family man who was a workaholic. It's like Jekyll and Hyde."

West's youngest brother, Douglas, 47, said: "Fred was a complete softie. I could make him cry any time as we got older. He would not lift a finger to defend himself. They used to have fights at the local village hall but he would never fight back. He never used to knock us younger ones about."

Staff at a Wiltshire printing firm where West spent several days on building work remember him as a "totally ordinary guy". Cliff Dyer, 32, a salesman at the factory in Swindon, said: "You would have invited him into your home with open arms. He was so nice." But Stephen Palmer,

asked him how he was and he just looked up at me with an icy grin and said 'Go away', smiled like a maniac and then continued polishing his boots."

West had a record of criminal convictions. He made 11 court appearances, mainly for petty theft, receiving stolen goods and motoring offences, and in 1970 spent a short time in prison.

Born on September 29, 1941, he was the oldest of six children brought up in the picturesque rural backwater of Much Marcle, a village in Herefordshire. His father Walter was an illiterate farm worker. His mother Daisy was said to have doted upon West and to have held him up as a role model to his brothers and sisters.

The family first lived in isolated 100-year-old Bickerton Cottage, which had no running water and an outside toilet. Shortly after Frederick was born they moved a mile down the road into a bigger house, Moor Court Cottage, where he spent most of his childhood.

A relative described the family life: "The children would all go out in the fields

and help the farmers with the harvest. Sometimes they'd go out rabbiting to get an animal for the pot. The house was often full of children and they would bring back other youngsters from the village for tea."

Discipline from their mother and father in the bustling household was described as firm but fair. West did not do particularly well at school but was not a troublemaker. As a teenager he was fond of his 125cc motorcycle and regularly went to dances at the Memorial Hall. He sold the bike when he was 18, after breaking his leg in an accident. He met his first wife, Catherine "Rena" Costello, a Scottish waitress, when he was employed as a lorry driver. They married at Ledbury register office on November 17, 1962. Their first daughter, Anna-Marie, was born in March 1963 and their second daughter, Charmaine, the following year.

The young family moved around the country as West sought work, finding jobs as a lorry driver, general builder and ice-cream salesman. But the marriage ran into difficulties and the couple returned to Gloucestershire, where they moved into a caravan.

In 1970 West voluntarily placed the girls into local authority care—apparently to allow him time to sort out his marriage problems—but took them back after just a few weeks. When Catherine West disappeared shortly afterwards, West told friends she had gone back to Scotland.

West began an affair with Rosemary Letts, a 15-year-old schoolgirl, and on October 17,



Police bringing out human remains from the West home at 25 Cromwell Road

1970, the couple's first daughter, Heather, was born at Gloucester City Maternity Hospital. Two years later they married at Gloucester register office. West described himself as a bachelor on the wedding certificate and no record of a divorce from his first wife could be traced at Somerset House. The couple lived at 25

Midland Road, Gloucester, but moved to 25 Cromwell Street in 1973. Rosemary had five more children, including Stephen and May. West is described as the father of all of them, but three are of mixed race.

Rosemary's brother, Graham, 37, is one of the few family members who kept in

close contact with the family. He has described the atmosphere of the family home as eerie. "The children were always immaculately turned out. Their manners were impeccable. But they were so subdued, it was unnatural. Whenever we walked into the house there was never any noise."

House of Horror became a sideshow

By BILL FROST

THE arrest of Frederick West triggered one of the most complex and macabre mass-murder inquiries of modern times. He was detained on February 25 last year by detectives investigating the disappearance of his daughter Heather, who was last seen alive aged 16 in 1987. A day later, officers using mini-diggers found the teenager's remains under a patio in the small back garden of 25 Cromwell Street. Nine bodies were eventually discovered at the house. Another was found

at West's former home in Midland Road, Gloucester, and two more were uncovered in fields at Kempey, on the county border.

Each day of digging brought larger crowds to Cromwell Street. Neighbours did a brisk trade selling sandwiches and cold drinks as sightseers, including regular coach parties of Japanese tourists, arrived at the so-called House of Horror in ever-greater numbers.

Such was the extent of the excavations carried out at West's home that the foundations of the building had to be shored up with concrete. The back garden was dug to a depth of 5ft before police were satisfied that there were no more bodies.

To the fury of Detective Superintendent John Bennett, the officer leading the inquiry, leaks to the tabloids were jeopardising his case against West, giving any defence counsel the perfect opportunity to claim that a fair trial was impossible. In addition, immense distress was being caused to the victims' families by reports that some of the young women had been mutilated before their deaths.

As the inquiry gathered momentum, the costs rose: £300,000 on police overtime; £48,000 on the hire of excavation equipment; £30,000 on demolition work; £28,000 on forensic science services and £6,000 on mobile telephones. The final bill is thought to be £1.3 million.

There was another price to be paid. Officers began to show the strain of their harrowing work and were offered stress counselling. "The discoveries we have made at Cromwell Street and elsewhere are like something from a horror film. No one involved in this investigation will ever be the same again," one officer said.

Trail of death started with pregnant friend

FREDERICK West's first alleged victim was a family friend, Anne McFall, 18. She was born in Glasgow in 1949, and worked for a while in a knitwear factory there.

By 1966 she had moved to the Gloucester area, living at caravan sites at Brockworth and Sandhurst. She was last seen in April 1967 when heavily pregnant. Her remains, the twelfth and last to be uncovered, were found in the

Fingerpost field at Kempey, Gloucestershire, on June 7 last year. The police diggers took 56 days to find her. West's first wife, Catherine Costello, is thought to have been his second victim. She was born in Coatbridge, Strathclyde, on April 14, 1944. Tall with dark hair, often dyed blond, she met West while working as a waitress in the New Inn, Ledbury, Hereford and Worcester.

They married at Ledbury register office on November 17, 1962, and their daughter, Charmaine, was born four months later in Coatbridge. West worked as a lorry driver and sometimes drove an ice-cream van. Their second daughter, Anne Marie, was born in Glasgow in 1964. Police uncovered Catherine's remains on April 10 last year in the neighbouring Letterbox field at Kempey. The search had taken 13 days.

West's third alleged victim, Charmaine, is believed to have died in 1972 when she was just eight. Her remains were uncovered when police broke through a concrete kitchen floor at the West's first Gloucester home at 25 Midland Road, on May 4 last year. The Midland Road house is

only a few hundred yards from 25 Cromwell Street, on the opposite side of a park. West was also accused of killing nine young women and girls whose remains were uncovered under floors and in the back garden at 25 Cromwell Street.

He was jointly charged with his wife Rosemary with these murders, between April 1973 and June 1987. Their alleged victims were

Lynda Gough, 19, who was working at the Co-Op store in Gloucester when she disappeared; Carole Cooper, 15, who had been living at a children's home in Worcester and was last seen getting on to a bus in the city; Lucy Farrington, 21, a student at Exeter University, who was killed after failing to catch a bus in Cheltenham; Therese Siegenthaler, 21, Swiss-born but living in Lewisham, south-east London, who died while travelling to Wales; Shirley Hubbard, 15, who had been working for a month at a store in Worcester and disappeared while travelling home to Droitwich, Hereford; and Rosemary, Joanna Mott, 18, of Gloucester; Shirley Robinson, 18, a lodger at No 25, who was heavily pregnant when she died; and Alison Chambers, 17, who was working in Gloucester with a firm of solicitors under the Youth Training Scheme and whose remains were the second set to be uncovered in the garden.

The West's daughter Heather, their first child born in 1970, was 16 when she was last seen in Gloucester. Her remains were the first to be found by police searching the garden.

Gruesome toll of multiple murderers

THE 12 murder charges faced by Frederick West ensured that his name was linked with the ranks of British serial killers. Their names include:

John Thompson: 37 victims. A petty thief and drug addict. The motive for his petrol attack on The Spanish Club, in Soho, was rage at being overcharged for a rum and coke. Jailed for life in 1981.

Mary Ann Cotton: 20 or more victims. She married three times and in 20 years poisoned husbands, children, stepchildren, other relatives and friends with arsenic. Motive: insurance money, remarriage or spite. Hanged in 1873.

Dennis Nilsen: 16. He strangled young men "for company" at his home in Muswell Hill, north London, keeping their bodies under the floorboards. Jailed for life in 1983.

Michael Ryan: 16. The Hungerford gunman fired 119 shots in one hour with an M1 carbine, Kalashnikov rifle and Biretta pistol to the Berkshire town in 1987, and killed himself.

Bruce Lee: 15. The 20-year-old arsonist started a series of blazes in Humberstone. He was convicted of 26 murders, but the number was reduced to 15 on appeal. Detained for life in 1977.

Peter Sutcliffe: the Yorkshire Ripper. 13. With more victims than Jack the Ripper, who murdered five prostitutes in 1888, Sutcliffe preyed on prostitutes and young women in the Leeds area. He was sent to Broadmoor high-security mental hospital. Detained for life in 1981.

John Hopley: the acid bath murderer. 9. He plunged the corpses of his victims — wealthy widows, whom he had conned of cash — into a 40-gallon drum of acid. Hopley boasted that there was no evidence, but a forensic expert found one plastic denture which survived the acid. Hanged in 1949.

John Christie: 8. He gassed, strangled and raped six women. At 10 Rillington Place, in west London, he is also believed to have killed the wife and child of his tenant, Timothy Evans. Hanged in 1953.

Kenneth Eskinade: the Stockwell Strangler. 7. All Eskinade's victims were frail pensioners. He was jailed for 40 years in 1968.

John Childs: 6. Victims were killed for cash, dismembered and burnt in the grate of Childs's flat in Poplar, east London. He carried out two of the contract killings dressed in black, complete with an undertaker's hat. Jailed for life in 1980.

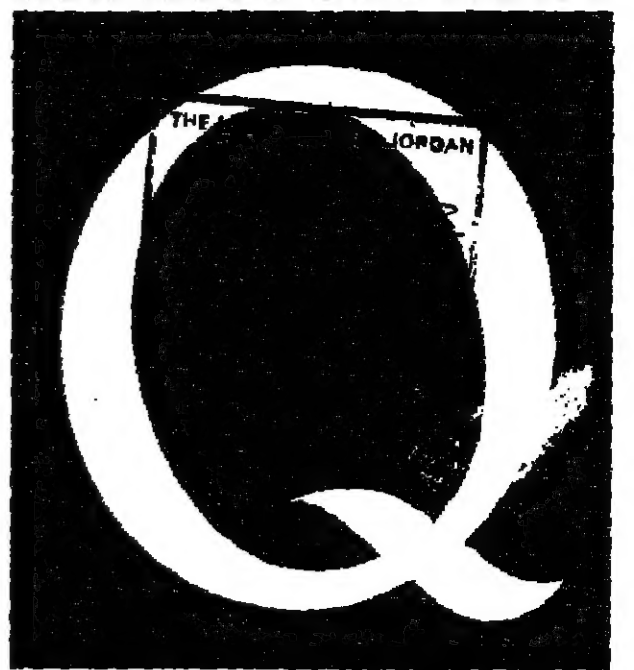
Ian Brady: 5. Twenty years after he was jailed for the Moors murders of three children with Myra Hindley, his accomplice led police to the buried bodies of two other victims. Jailed for life in 1966 for three murders.

Colin Ireland: 5. Ireland, an unemployed drifter, wanted to make his mark in life. He targeted homosexuals in London who indulged in sado-masochistic practices, and wanted to be defined as a serial killer. Jailed for life in 1993.

Jeremy Bamber: 5. He murdered his adoptive parents, his sister and her twin six-year-old sons at their farm in Essex. He wanted to inherit the family's money. Jailed for life in 1966.



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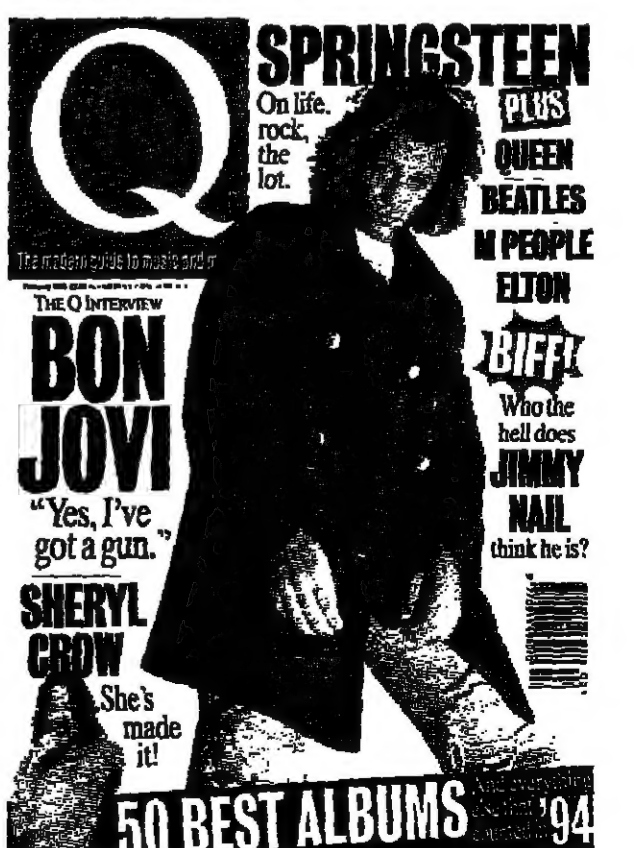


"I don't do drugs. I don't have the mental stability."

This month, Q talks to America's most wanted man, Jon Bon Jovi, about family, brotherhood, his early years and just how it feels to sell 11 million albums in a piffling 10 weeks.

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Politicians on podiums are not the only people to wield power; thinkers too have changed the world



Stalin, Roosevelt and Churchill meeting in Tehran in 1943: three "direct leaders" deciding the fate of nations

agenda

While the statesman's power is obvious, there is another type of leader who, though often working alone, may affect our lives as deeply, argues Howard Gardner



Gandhi: complex message



Thatcher: proud of past

Loners who shape our destiny

FIFTY one years ago, Winston Churchill, Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Joseph Stalin assembled in Tehran for their first meeting. Victory for the Allied powers was already within grasp. Accordingly, the three leaders planned strategy for the invasion of Normandy and discussed such questions as the way in which they should deal with the Nazi leadership and the fate of Poland.

The famous photograph of the three seated on a veranda embodies leadership-in-action: powerful persons making decisions that affect the

lives of millions. At the time of the summit, the physicist Albert Einstein was at his desk at the Institute of Advanced Study in Princeton, pondering the nature of matter. Working alone, shunning publicity for the most part, Einstein was apparently far removed from the concerns and activities of political figures such as Churchill or FDR. Yet Einstein's insights into the relations between matter and energy were the intellectual capital with which the atom bomb was constructed.

It can be argued that it was the detonation of this weapon,

at least as much as the conversations among titans, that determined the denouement of the Second World War and the shape of the world in the decades ahead.

The creator Einstein and the three summit leaders may seem far removed from one another. I argue, however, that insight can be gained into both creativity and leadership by examining such individuals together. I define leadership as the capacity of an individual, or group, to change the thoughts, feelings, and actions of a significant number of individuals. Fig-

ures such as Churchill or Thatcher are *direct leaders*; they lead by telling stories that affect other individuals and by embodying the stories in the ways that they conduct their own lives. Thus, Churchill and Thatcher both told stories about the need to preserve the past grandeur of Britain; and both indicated their reverence for Britain and exhibited personal courage in their daily lives.

Individuals such as Einstein or Picasso or Virginia Woolf are *indirect leaders*; they lead by creating products—works, theories—that affect other

individuals involved in the same domains or disciplines. Thus the manner in which Einstein formulated questions affected physicists, just as Woolf's style of writing affected subsequent authors of fiction.

To explore the relations between indirect and direct leadership, I have been investigating prototypical indirect leaders such as Einstein and T.S. Eliot; exemplary direct leaders such as Churchill and Gandhi; and individuals who occupy a space between indirect and direct leadership such as J. Robert Oppenheimer,

physicist turned director of the Manhattan Project, Margaret Mead, anthropologist turned public educator, and Jean Monnet, the founder of the European Community.

Indirect leaders tell a story that is relatively sophisticated. Indeed, sophisticated stories such as the theory of relativity or stream-of-consciousness writing may prevail over less sophisticated ones such as a belief in absolute time/space and straightforward narration.

Direct leaders need to speak across disciplines to a wider, more heterogeneous public. In



Einstein: worked alone



Eliot: profound influence

most cases, they are reduced to telling stories that are uncomplicated. Only rarely does one encounter a story of some complexity that endures—in Gandhi's case, the demonstration that antagonists in a struggle can work together and can both be ennobled by the struggle.

My study, reported in *Creating Minds* (1993) and the forthcoming *Leading Minds*, reveals that indirect leaders tend to exhibit specific intellectual strengths that emerge relatively early in life. In contrast, direct leaders are rarely excellent students. Direct leaders are gifted in oral expression and in an understanding of other individuals. Both kinds of leaders need to spend at least ten years honing their expertise.

Indirect leaders are typically loners, though at the time of their greatest breakthrough they invariably need the support of at least one other individual. Direct leaders have the capacity—though not always the desire—to spend considerable time with other individuals. When still young, they surprise others by challenging individuals in authority, a marker that they already feel themselves the equal of dominant figures.

The two kinds of leaders fail in instructive ways. Indirect leaders do not have control over what happens to their ideas and sometimes they are misinterpreted. Many applications of relativity theory, for example, have nothing to do with Einstein's discoveries. Direct leaders are more likely to exert immediate influence, perhaps because they are in positions of power.

Yet great power often contains within it the seeds of destruction. Sometimes, as in the case of Baroness Thatcher, an individual ends up undermining her own authority. Sometimes, as with Churchill or de Gaulle, the sacrifices asked of followers are too great. And sometimes the changing nature of the times calls for a new kind of leader: thus Oppenheimer was not able to survive in an America that turned fiercely anti-Communist. It has not been generally

recognised that leadership is a cognitive phenomenon, one that occurs in the minds of leaders and followers. By identifying the stories that leaders tell, and the pre-existing stories with which these new stories must necessarily compete, one can understand in finer detail what happens at times when leadership is effective—or when it is not.

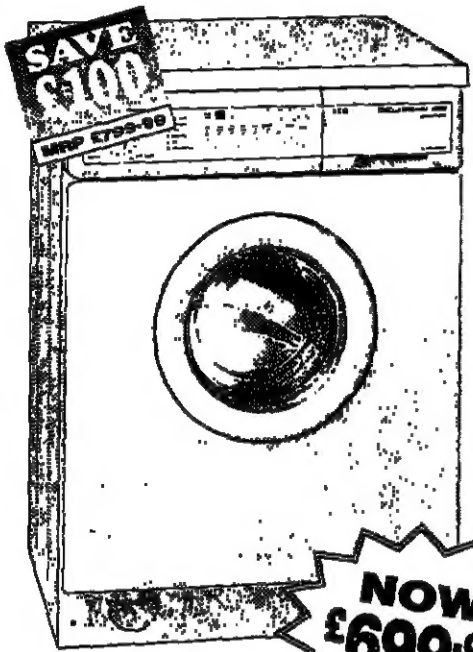
One may ask what it takes to lead in a more sophisticated way. Only an individual who is a gifted educator and can adhere over time to the same basic themes has a chance to provide such leadership. In our time Monnet, who for 50 years sought to promote the idea of a single Europe against the older notion of rival nation states, stands as an example of a person who succeeded in promoting a more complex idea. And even 16 years after his death, his idea is far from being fully realised.

PROBING THE MIND

Howard Gardner is Professor of Education and Adjunct Professor of Psychology at Harvard University. The recipient of many honours, including a MacArthur Prize Fellowship, Professor Gardner is the author of 14 books and several hundred articles. He is best known for his theory of multiple intelligences, a critique of the idea that there is a single human intelligence that can be assessed by standard psychometric tests.

Leading Minds: An anatomy of leadership as seen through the lives of Margaret Mead, J. Robert Oppenheimer, Robert M. Hutchins, Alfred P. Sloan, George C. Marshall, Pope John XXIII, Eleanor Roosevelt, Martin Luther King Jr., Margaret Thatcher, Jean Monnet and Mahatma Gandhi, published in 1995 by Basic Books.

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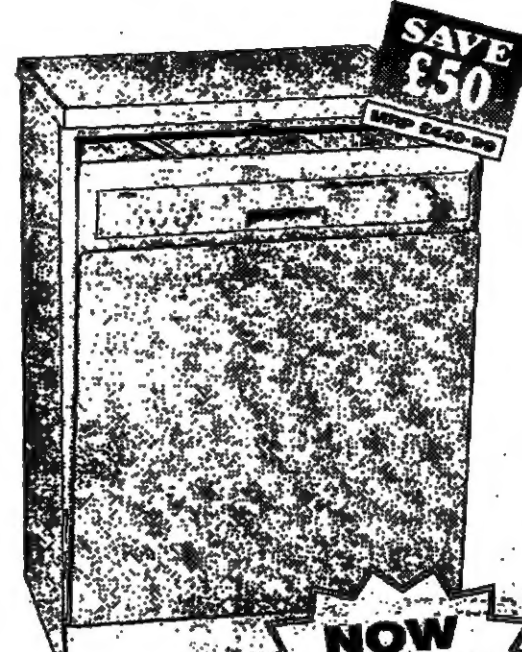
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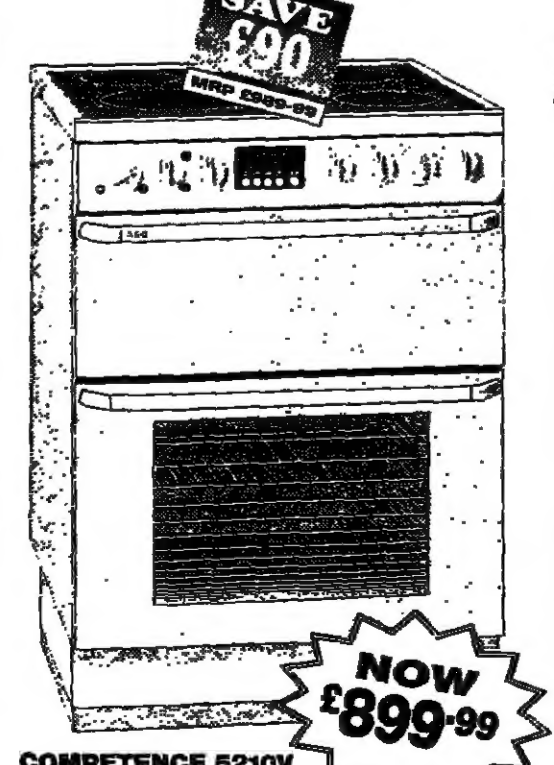
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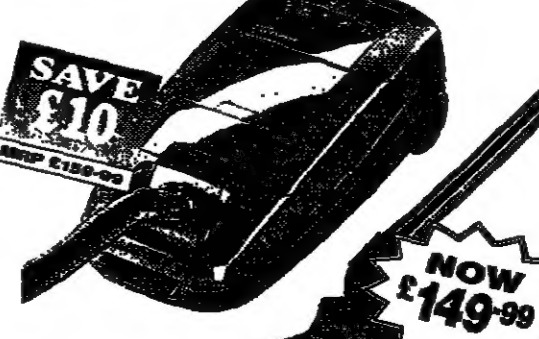
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THE TIMES DEMOS

Creativity and Leadership by Howard Gardner

READERS are invited to the first in a series of The Times/Demos Millennium lectures to be held during 1995.

The inaugural lecture, Creativity and Leadership, will be given by Howard Gardner, a Harvard professor, who first made his name with the theory of multiple intelligences which revolutionised ideas about human potential.

In his lecture, Professor Gardner will be looking at the creativity and effectiveness in leadership, examining the characteristics of past leaders, such as Margaret Thatcher and de Gaulle, and setting out the qualities which make leaders successful in the future. Chairing the event will be Lord Young, chairman of Cable and Wireless Plc.

The lecture will be held on Monday January 9, 1995, at 7.30pm, at Church House Conference Centre, Great Smith Street, Westminster SW1.

Tickets, priced £8 (£5 for students), are available by completing the coupon below and sending it to Joanne Oliver, Town House Publicity, 45 Islington Park Street, London, N1 1QB.

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Two guests killed as smoke sweeps through ski hotel

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

TWO people died yesterday as smoke swept through a Scottish hotel full of Hogmanay visitors. Barefoot guests in their nightclothes ran for safety outdoors, where blizzards had pushed the wind chill factor down to -9C.

Fire broke out at 4.45am in a kitchen storeroom. Flames were restricted to the ground floor, but smoke quickly spread through the ten storeys of the Four Seasons Hotel in the ski resort of Aviemore.

Skiers from around the world were among 190 guests, including 32 children. Those on the upper floors were told to stay in their rooms and await rescue. As smoke crept under their doors, they had to open their windows to the sub-zero temperatures.

Patricia Shaw, 55, of Kippax, Leeds, was found in a state of distress by firemen in her fourth-floor bedroom. She suffered from emphysema, a lung condition. Mrs Shaw carried an oxygen tank with



Victim: Patricia Shaw

her and had difficulty breathing. She was rescued by ladder but died on her way to an ambulance. "She would have been overcome very quickly by the smallest amount of smoke," Sheila Bryan, a friend and neighbour, said yesterday.

Mrs Shaw was on holiday with her husband Malcolm, 55. The couple ran their own window blinds business. The other victim was Graham Strachan, 64, of Strathblain,

Stirlingshire, who was found collapsed on an escape stairway by firemen wearing breathing apparatus. He was pronounced dead by medical crews. His wife Catherine, 59, was taken to Raigmore Hospital, Inverness.

A fire brigade investigation will try to discover why so much smoke reached the escape route. "There were a lot of chairs and other items stored in the area where the fire broke out and the burning upholstery created a lot of smoke," John Cheadle, Highlands and Islands fire brigade divisional officer, said.

The hotel's manager, Houman Meshkini, tried to tackle the fire and had to be dragged back from the flames. The Aviemore fire engine was unable to cope, so reinforcements had to drive through heavy snowstorms to reach the hotel.

When the fire broke out, the streets of central Aviemore were still busy and revellers, among them doctors and mountain rescuers, rushed to



Four Seasons Hotel in Aviemore, where two died. Guests were told to stay in their rooms when fire was found

the hotel to help. Members of the public gave their warm clothing to the guests. Seven people were treated at the scene for the effects of smoke inhalation. The fire was under control by 6.28am.

Some of the rescued guests were taken to the bar of the Aviemore Mountain Resort

opposite. Its chief executive, Don Lawson, said: "People opened their windows to get air as smoke came under their doors, but they couldn't breathe. It was so thick coming up the outside of the building. It was the most horrific thing."

"We gave them some food

and a drop of whisky to calm themselves. I don't know where they will end up. Aviemore is packed to the brim at this time of year. There isn't a bed to be had as Scots people come here because of the liberal licensing laws."

Five people were killed and

more than 140 were injured last night when fire swept through the ballroom of the Swiss Hotel in the Belgian city of Antwerp.

The fire started after candles were lit on a Christmas tree and caught a number of helium-filled balloons, causing a series of explosions.

Mother sees daughter die in car explosion

A GIRL aged five was burnt to death in a crashed car on New Year's Eve while her mother and sister watched helplessly.

The mother and her eight-year-old daughter scrambled free after their car careered off the road and crashed into tree stumps at Markbeech, near Edenbridge, in Kent. But before they could rescue the other child the car burst into flames.

Police had not released the names of the family yesterday because relatives had not been contacted. The two survivors were treated for shock in hospital.

Peter Leppard, a farmer, raised the alarm on his mobile telephone when he saw smoke pouring from the car. However, fire and ambulance crews were unable to reach the victim.

Mr Leppard's wife, Elaine, said yesterday that her husband had seen the smoke from their house: "He found the car was well alight, and the mother and one of the children were standing beside it. The woman was in a terrible state. She just kept saying, 'I've tried and tried and I can't get her out.'"

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

Dealer North Love all Rubber bridge

109764
VQ
AKQ10
J85
K83
VKJ66
8753
5

AKQJ52
V1074
82
A102
V832
J64
KQ9784

W N E S
26 14 (1) 14 28
All pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: a3

By ROBERT SHEEHAN

BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

1. North decided that his spades were too weak to open. With the prospect that over a Two Heart response he would have to "ruff" them. That should have led him to the conclusion that it was better to pass.

Despite North's dubious opening, North-South reached a good contract. What should South do after ruffing the spade lead?

Answer: At the table the declarer took the ace of hearts and ruffed two hearts in dummy, each time returning to hand with a spade ruff. When he ruffed the fourth round of hearts, East discarded a diamond and the declarer was restricted to five club tricks in hand, ace and three heart ruffs and one diamond trick.

While the declarer could have succeeded by cashing two diamonds before setting out on his cross-ruff, that was not without dangers. Simplest, but not all that easy to see if you do not know the tactic, is to play a low heart at trick two. Now the declarer is in control — the defence cannot prevent him from making one heart ruff to go with the ace of hearts, four diamond tricks and five club tricks.

Macallan pairs

The Macallan International Bridge Pairs Championship, in association with *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*, will be held at the White House Hotel, Albany Street, London NW1, on January 25-27. For details and tickets contact the English Bridge Union, Broadfields, Bicester Road, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, HP19 3BG (telephone: 0296 394414).

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE

CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Menchik Memorial

After four rounds of the Menchik Memorial tournament at Hastings, Thomas Luther, the German grandmaster, leads with 3.5 points, ahead of Alisa Maric of Belgrade and John Nunn of London on 2.5. In round four, Maric won a brilliant game against James Howell, the English international master, from Manchester.

White: Alisa Maric

Black: James Howell

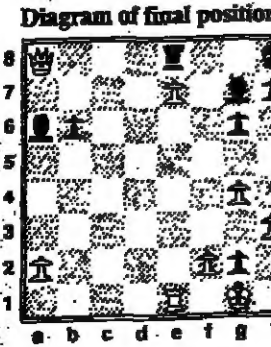
Hastings, January 1995

Grinfeld Defence

1 Nc3 Nf6
2 c4 g5
3 g3 Bg7
4 Bg2 0-0
5 d4 c5
6 cxd5 Nxd5
7 0-0 Nb6
8 Nc3 Nc8
9 e3 e5
10 d5 Ne5
11 e4 c6
12 Bg5 Bc8
13 Bc3 cxd5
14 Bxb6 Qxb6

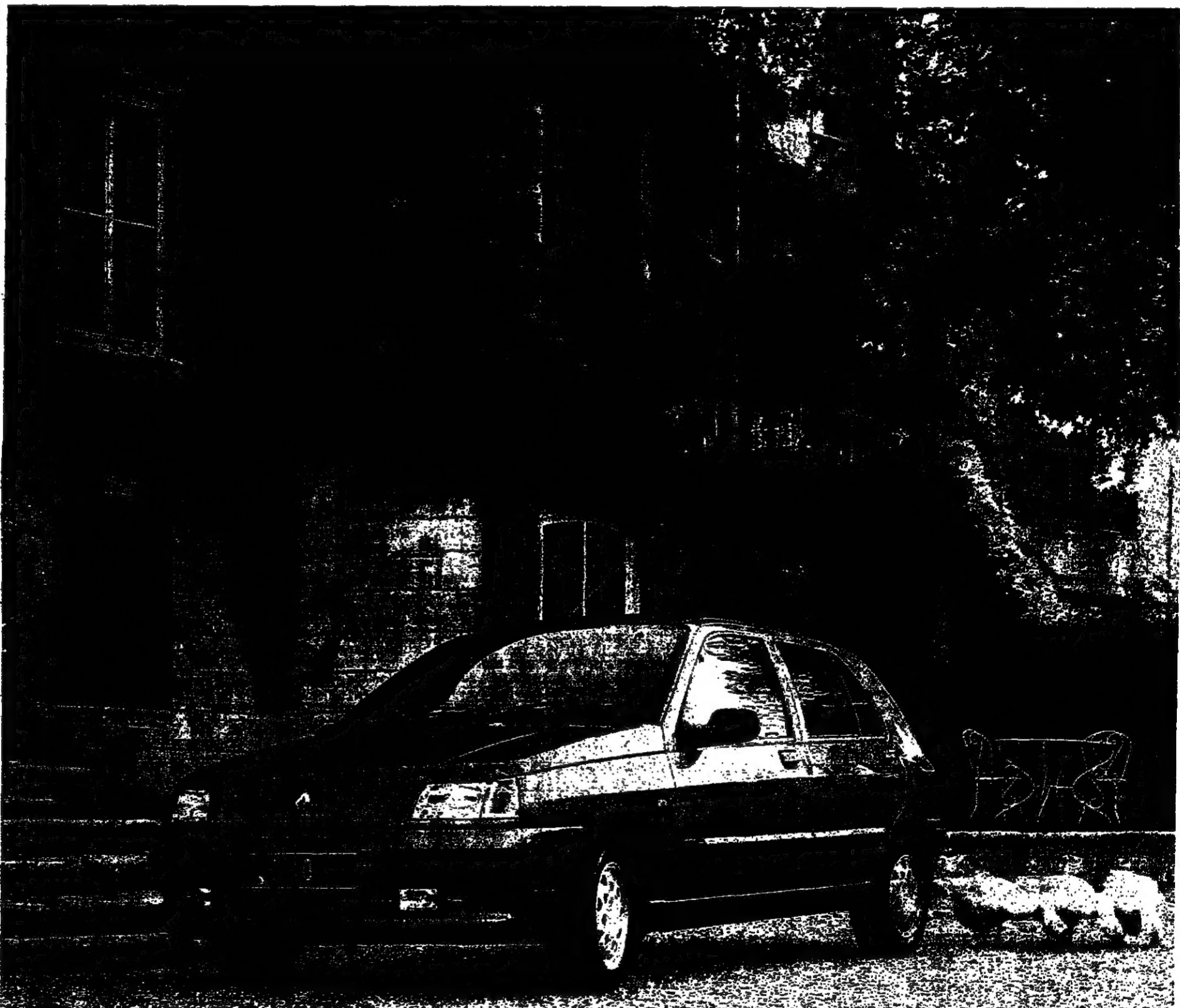
15 Nd5 Qd8
16 Rf1 Nc6
17 b4 f5
18 exf5 g4
19 h3 Bxh3
20 Rxd3 exd3
21 Rf3 Qc8
22 Rf1 Qc7
23 Ne7+ Qxg7
24 Bg2 Rg8
25 g4 Bg7
26 Qd5+ Kx6
27 h3 e6
28 b5 Rb6
29 Qc8 Rg8
30 bxc6 d6
31 Qc5 Bc6
32 Qxd6 Black resigns

Diagram of final position



Winning move, page 32

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1964 Cabinet Papers: UDI threat; economic crisis; disputes with Europe; the ANC treason trial

Ian Smith dismissed as 'simple bigot'

By MICHAEL DYNES, WHITEHALL CORRESPONDENT



Shawcross: raised fears

Secret cash used to block the Left

By JONATHAN PRYNN, POLITICAL REPORTER

SECRET service funds were used to finance an industrial group dedicated to countering Communist influence in trade unions during the early 1960s.

Newly released papers show that Harold Macmillan authorised the release of thousands of pounds to back the group, IRIS (Industrial Research and Information Service), after an approach from Lord Shawcross, the former Labour MP who was then a director of Shell Transport and Trading.

Lord Shawcross had warned the Prime Minister in a November 1962 letter that some unions "are wholly dominated by communists" and that the influence had spread to the media. He asked for government help with the funding of IRIS, which

planted moles in trade unions believed to have been infiltrated by Communists, and for an approach to industrialists.

A note by Sir Timothy Bligh, Principal Private Secretary to the Prime Minister, records a conversation about IRIS with Sir Burke Trend, then a senior Treasury official, in which Sir Burke said that about £40,000 "could be managed". In a January 1963 memo, Henry Brooke, the Home Secretary, told Macmillan that, subject to assurances, resources would be made available. "There will exist not only an effective channel to facts that we know about certain individuals from secret sources, but also a more powerful instrument for mobilising efforts within the unions against the attempts by the Communist Party to get control of key positions."

TRADE UNIONS

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Channel Tunnel's £143m price tag

EUROPE

THE Foreign Office wanted the Western European Union to assume responsibility for building the Channel Tunnel.

Officials were convinced the proposal would breathe life into the moribund WEU, which was founded in 1948 to foster European collective security, and convince President de Gaulle that Britain was as pro-European as France.

A Foreign Office memorandum, written in January 1964, said the scheme would "give new life to the WEU", while also showing that Britain was not prepared to "embark enthusiastically on exclusively Anglo-French projects at a time when General de Gaulle was generally disposed to kick us in the teeth".

The Foreign Office proposal came one year after de Gaulle rejected Britain's application for membership of the European Community by insisting that Britain neither thought nor acted like a continental nation and was therefore not yet qualified for membership.

millan, then Prime Minister, had told Mr Smith: "Of course, Rhodesia could declare herself independent, and she would be within her rights in doing this. If she did do this, however, she would sacrifice a great deal."

The Government feared that it had inadvertently given Mr Smith a green light for UDI, and was desperate to rectify this impression. "It is important to bring home to Mr Smith that any reference

last October to our inability physically to prevent any attempt at a unilateral declaration [of independence] must not be taken as minimising the strong reaction there would be in this country and elsewhere, and the grave consequences that would follow."

Mr Smith, the briefing paper said, must be made aware that "we could not recognise a unilateral declaration of independence, which would have no legal or constitutional validity, nor could we recognise those who set themselves up as the government of Southern Rhodesia".

Britain, it added, "would not feel obliged not to interfere in Rhodesia's internal affairs, and would feel free to work to restore the constitutional position... by any means it saw fit". Rhodesia "would become a target for subversion, trade boycotts, air transport bans and other hostile acts".

One Conservative backbench MP wrote to Sir Alec warning him that Mr Smith



Before meeting Ian Smith, Sir Alec Douglas-Home was briefed to indicate that Britain could not recognise UDI

was "a stubborn old pig". Mr Smith "was an extreme man of regrettably narrow vision" who was likely to "take some very precipitate action on the speed of advance to independence", the MP said.

After Labour's election vic-

tor in October, Harold Wilson, the new Prime Minister, was so alarmed at Mr Smith's posturing that he issued a warning that the Smith regime would be committing treason if it went ahead with UDI. But the Cabinet papers

show that Mr Wilson's belligerent talk was largely bluff, based on the belief that Mr Smith's nerve would crack.

Mr Wilson had hoped that his statement would stop Mr Smith in his tracks, while encouraging non-violent inter-

national resistance, which Britain thought would be considerably more liberal whites. Mr Smith, however, declared UDI in November 1965, sparking a guerrilla war which ended with the birth of Zimbabwe in 1980.

Squabble with Bonn over troops

THE Government considered pulling some of its troops out of West Germany at the height of the Cold War in 1964 because the Government in Bonn refused to cover fully the cost of their deployment.

With the British defence budget fully stretched by military flashpoints from Cyprus to Malaysia, and by the order of a fifth Polaris submarine, the Treasury was negotiating hard to secure favourable terms. However, according to Cabinet minutes from May 7, 1964, the West German Government refused to accept British demands "to offset the cost of maintaining our forces in Germany".

Bonn had agreed to offset America's costs of stationing forces by buying US arms. The Cabinet considered withdrawing some of the 50,000 British troops but only as a last resort because of the "serious implications" for relations with Nato partners and the cost of relocation.

Diplomats feared Mandela outcry

BRITAIN expected its embassies throughout Africa to be attacked if Nelson Mandela, the ANC leader being tried for insurrection and sabotage, was sentenced to death by the South African courts.

A Foreign Office telegram sent to diplomats in May 1964 warned that African leaders were planning "concerted action and simultaneous demonstrations throughout the continent" if Mandela was executed. The telegram expressed fears that the demonstrations "might take the form of attacks on British and American embassies in African countries", and urged all its missions to be prepared.

British officials were particularly anxious as the trial of nine ANC leaders entered its closing stages. Speculation was rife that they would be given death sentences under the provisions of the South African Suppression of Communism Act, or life sentences, which under South African



Mandela before his trial

law meant perpetual imprisonment. When the life sentences were announced on June 11, appeals for leniency followed but they provoked a bitter reaction from the South African Government.

The Foreign Office was torn between making representations for clemency and allowing the trial to take its course, thereby risking being accused of washing its hands of the affair.

Maudling opposed new Polaris

THE decision in February 1964 to build a fifth Polaris nuclear submarine was taken in the face of opposition from Reginald Maudling, the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

At the Cabinet meeting of February 25, Sir Alec Douglas-Home told his senior ministers: "If we deploy only four Polaris submarines in all, we should run the risk that, during certain periods, when only one submarine would be on patrol, an accident might put it out of action." If the credibility of the British deterrent was to be maintained "it might be wise to anticipate this risk by ordering a fifth submarine".

Peter Thorneycroft, the Defence Minister, said the cost of a fifth Polaris could be offset by cuts in the forward defence programme. Mr Maudling described the cost as particularly unwelcome as "it would coincide with other heavy demands on our resources at that juncture". His objections were overruled.

Labour inherited chronic deficit

THE Labour Party was confronted by an overwhelming economic crisis on the day it took power (Michael Dynes writes). Harold Wilson's new Government had to take drastic action to correct Britain's chronic trade deficit or risk abandoning its cherished social programmes.

Sir William Armstrong, Permanent Secretary at the Treasury, told Mr Wilson that, without immediate action to reduce the balance of payments deficit, his Government would be unable to raise the money needed to honour its electoral commitments. In a briefing paper prepared for Mr Wilson, Sir William said: "We have a serious problem on our hands." Mr Wilson was told that the deficit was expected to be £800 million in 1964, with a further £450 million in 1965.

The documents show that Whitehall officials had arranged an emergency meeting between Mr Wilson, George Brown, Secretary of State for Economic Affairs, and James Callaghan, Chancellor of the Exchequer, to explain the scale of the economic crisis inher-

THE ECONOMY

ed after 13 years of Tory rule. The meeting took place the following day, a Saturday, where Mr Wilson, Mr Brown and Mr Callaghan appear to have agreed that there would be no devaluation of sterling. That decision proved to be one of the most controversial made by the new Government. Some of its supporters argued for immediate devaluation, which could be blamed on the mess left by the Tories. Others insisted that devaluation would forever brand Labour as the party of the easy option. In the event, it was forced to devalue two years later.

When the new Cabinet gathered at Downing Street for the first time two days later, there was no mention of devaluation. Mr Wilson briefly congratulated his colleagues on their election victory and handed over to Mr Brown to explain the economic situation.

Mr Brown told the Cabinet that the economic situation was serious and that "it appeared to have been deteriorating for some time". Mr Callaghan said that any difficulties with the balance of payments could be dealt with in the short-term with support from the central banks. In the long-term, however, he warned: "We might have to invoke our right to draw on the International Monetary Fund."

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Pope urges women to play the peacemaker

By MARIANNE CURPIEY

POPE John Paul said yesterday that women have a primary role in promoting peace and urged the world to end its conflicts in 1995, particularly in the Balkans and Chechnia.

In an appeal to those involved in wars he said: "Stop. Stop before the newborn infant. Stop before Jesus Christ... I ask those responsible for such grave situations to reflect on their consciences. A more just world can never be built with weapons in your hands."

The Pope spoke to crowds in St Peter's Square yesterday after he celebrated mass in St Peter's Basilica on the Roman Catholic Church's World Day of Peace. He called on world leaders to take concrete steps towards peace, urging them to find inspiration in the fact that 1995 marked the fiftieth anniversary of the end of the Second World War and the only time that nuclear weapons had been used in war.

"In remembering such events and observing regions of the world where fighting unfortunately continues, how can we not hope that the new year finally will bring yearned-for peace to every part of the Earth," he said. "This is our burning hope."

The theme of this year's World Day of Peace is "Women, teachers of peace". The Pope said that women had a full right to a place in all walks of public life but that their role in the family was paramount. In three speeches yesterday, he spoke of the values of maternity. He said that women had a "natural vocation to be teachers of peace in the family, in society and in every social context".



The Pope spoke of "martyred Balkans"

They could make a "significant contribution" to peace on every level of society.

The Pope made a special appeal for peace in Chechnia, where an unspecified number of people have died in Russian air raids since December 11, when Moscow sent tanks to the mostly Muslim region. He also mentioned "the martyred Balkans", as well as Rwanda, Sierra Leone and Burundi. His planned trip to Sarajevo last September had to be cancelled because of fears for his safety. "In this first day of the year, we cannot forget our brothers who have been hit by enduring trials," he said.

In Britain the Archbishop of Canterbury spoke in his traditional New Year message of the new feeling of optimism in Northern Ireland and the importance of hope. Dr George Carey, speaking on television as the new year began, called on people to use memories of the past to help build the future.

He gave a warning that people could not dismiss or



Carey: optimistic about Ireland

erase the past: "We need to remember where we come from, to honour our heroes and to learn from our mistakes," he said. "On both sides of the Irish Sea, Catholic and Protestant Christians long for peace and justice to prevail."

Moved by a recent visit to Ulster, he described the "tragic history of fighting and death". He said: "Yet despite so many tragedies there was a feeling of optimism in the air that there was a chance of a lasting settlement." He said that although for some there were happy memories to cherish in the past, others might be glad that 1994 was over.

"The gift of memory is one of our distinctive features as human beings: the power to recall the past — and learn from it in building our future," he said. The Archbishop recalled a service during the summer's D-Day commemorations: "So many young men lost their lives to secure the freedom we now enjoy."

Fisherman braves icy sea in hunt for friend

COASTGUARDS praised the courage of a crewman on a fishing boat who dove into heavy seas on New Year's Eve to save a colleague who had been swept overboard.

The crewman jumped into the Atlantic west of Shetland carrying a lifebelt and was in the freezing water for five minutes before he was hauled back on board. He could find no trace of the missing man who was swept overboard about six miles north of Foula as the British crabbing boat *Amadeus 7th* battled through heavy snow showers, high seas and 70mph winds. The boat, based in Teignmouth, Devon, had a six-man Scottish and English crew.

After his rescue attempt the crewman began to show signs of hypothermia. A Shetland Coastguard spokesman said: "This man was five minutes in the sea and almost died trying to save his colleague. He is very brave. He deserves a medal."

The Coastguard helicopter had been scrambled from Sumburgh to search for the missing man along with the Afti lifeboat. As the aircraft flew in visibility of only a few metres it was diverted to pick up the survivor.

Because of the severe pitching and rolling of the *Amadeus*, the winchman was unable to land on the deck and the attempt was abandoned. By then the helicopter was flying almost to the limit in severe turbulence and icy conditions.

The boat sailed at full speed to Lerwick, where the crewman was transferred to the Gilbert Bain Hospital.

Single-sex schools delay stereotyping

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

SINGLE-SEX schools delay the onset of gender stereotyping, but teenagers conform in the end, according to new research on pupils' favourite subjects.

Psychologists at Leicester University surveyed more than a thousand pupils at comprehensive schools in Birmingham, Coventry and Leicester. Their findings, published in the journal *Educational Studies*, shed new light on the impact of single-sex schooling.

Previous research had highlighted the apparent effect of co-education in encouraging sexual stereotypes. The Leicester study raises the possibility that this is a passing phase.

The responses show significant shifts of opinion between the ages of 11 and 16, according to the type of school attended. While the younger children at mixed schools were more likely to conform to their stereotypes, attitudes had converged by the age of 15 or 16.

Boys' enthusiasm for music and art at 11 and 12 in single-sex schools was no longer evident four years later. Girls'

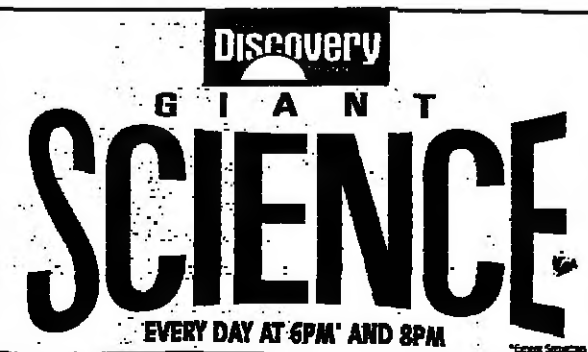
traditional preference for arts subjects also emerged only in the teens where they were educated separately.

The biggest contrast came in mathematics. The subject was the most popular among 11 and 12-year-olds at girls-only school, but one of the least popular for girls in mixed schools. By the age of 16, girls gave mathematics a low rating at both types of school. Among boys, the trend was in the opposite direction. Mathematics became a common favourite only among the older age group.

The authors of the study, Ann Colley, Chris Comer and David Hargreaves, suggest that some of the shifts of opinion are due to changes in the nature of subjects at different stages of schooling. But they believe that teenagers' greater awareness of gender issues is equally significant.

Overall, physical education was the most popular subject at 11 and 12, especially among boys. For the teenagers, English was the favourite, overwhelmingly so for girls.

Education, page 27



Shadow of apocalypse hangs over Chechen city amid bombardment from ground and air

Russian onslaught takes war to the heart of Grozny

FROM BILL GASPERINI IN GROZNY

WITH what may be the final Russian onslaught under way, there has been no let-up in the ferocity in the battle for Grozny.

The Russians pounded the city from the air and from the ground, using heavy artillery, tanks, Grad missiles and occasional aerial bombs. The Chechens have some heavy armour, but mostly used handheld weapons ranging from the ubiquitous Kalashnikov automatic rifle to grenade launchers and even hunting guns.

A huge battle raged on Saturday night right in the heart of the city, on Freedom Square, where the Chechen parliament and Presidential Palace are located. A Reuters television crew managed to film several burning Russian tanks that had been hit by Chechen anti-tank weapons. Many buildings in the city were also burning after being hit during the street fighting, as well as by shells and artillery fired from the outskirts.

Yesterday, from the western district of Volkovo, about two miles from the centre, it was possible to see flashes of orange light in the city, caused by missile or tank fire. It was impossible to tell from what direction the fire was coming, given that there was a huge pall of black haze hanging over the entire urban area. It was a mixture of fog, and the thick smoke from several oil fires raging out of control to the west of the city; an oil refinery and several storage tanks had been burning for several days after being hit by aerial bomb strikes.

The smoke and dull thud of explosions gave the whole scene an apocalyptic air. Yet through it all the Chechen fighters' morale has remained

high. Fighters deploying back from the central battle zone were undaunted by the intensity of the conflict.

"We will never give in to them, never," said Ahmed ab-Maharja. "Allah is on our side." A comrade of his, wearing a torn hunting jacket and holding a grenade launcher, was equally firm. "Boris Yeltsin has sent us plenty of new year's presents, made in Russia," he said, referring to the heavy fire, as another explosion erupted from within the foggy haze in the distance. "But we are giving him presents too."

There was confusion over the focus of the battle. Small groups of fighters moved towards the city centre or from it with little apparent direction or control. The Chechens appeared to be moving towards wherever there was firing, being prepared to take on the

to beat a hasty retreat when shells began landing in the neighbourhood, which had been calm and safe the day before. Across the mud-spattered street a group of Chechens were also departing.

Despite the Chechens' determination to fight on, ultimately the Russians' overwhelming firepower may force the fighters' retreat to be more than temporary and tactical. Having finally entered the city, the Russians will probably push on, even if it means destroying most of Grozny in the process. The Chechens may then slip away to the nearby mountains to the south, leading the conflict into a new, guerrilla-style phase.

The Russians have already considered that possibility. Up to 300 Russian paratroopers dropped into the mountains at the weekend, apparently to await any fighters who head there and to take on those already in the vicinity.

For weeks there have been reports of arms and provisions being stockpiled in secret locations.

□ Geneva: The Red Cross has been authorised to deliver medical supplies, food and plastic sheeting to Grozny. A spokesman for the International Committee of the Red Cross said that two delegates were in Grozny to assess how convoys could enter without hindrance.

Two Red Cross aid convoys were currently waiting at Nazran in neighbouring Ingushetia and in Dagestan, said the spokesman, Paul Morard.

The Red Cross delegates had "seen for themselves the violence of the fighting in the centre of the city" and roads out of Grozny "are packed with Chechens fleeing the capital and blocked by military movements", he added.

"The sky over Grozny is black with smoke following the setting on fire of a nearby oil refinery, and the situation for the population is terrible."

The convoys are carrying 100,000 family food parcels, surgical equipment and blood supplies, and plastic sheeting to replace windows smashed by the fighting in the cold city, Mr Morard said.

At the response of Russian authorities, staff of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees began a mission earlier to evaluate the needs of Chechens displaced by the fighting. (Reuters)



A weary Chechen fighter walks past a blazing house in Grozny yesterday after a night of street battles against invading Russian troops

Terriers who bait the bear

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN GROZNY

IN THE space of only a few weeks, the Chechen irregulars, battling the might of the Kremlin's military, have transformed themselves from a ragtag "Dad's Army" into a highly effective fighting force, capable of sustaining a lengthy and bloody campaign against Russian troops.

Drawn from professionals, manual workers and students, the Chechens who enlisted to defend their rebel

way, Aslanbeg Satabeg, a former lieutenant in the Soviet army who now works as a merchant, is typical of the type of fighter making the capture of Grozny so costly to the Russians.

"General Pavel Grachev [the Russian Defence Minister] said at the beginning of this struggle that he could take Grozny in two hours with his airborne units, but three weeks later the Russians have still not conquered us," said Mr Satabeg, who is part of a big force defending the eastern approaches to the city.

While most Chechen fighters concede that they are no match for the Russians in open terrain, where air power and armour can dominate, they believe that inside the city they can inflict a terrible toll on Moscow's forces and mount devastating guerrilla attacks in the countryside.

"The Russians will have to fight us street by street and we know our way around them



President Yeltsin toasts the new year during an address on Russian television while tanks rolled into Grozny. Opponents of the action in Moscow called for peace

better than the enemy," said one commander, who was distributing wire-guided anti-tank rockets to his men at key positions inside Grozny.

Possibly the most important advantage the Chechens have is their high morale. There is not a Chechen fighter in Grozny who doubts the cause he is fighting for, unlike the Russians, among whom the military operation is highly unpopular. The Chechens, who have been fighting for independence from Russia for most of the past two centuries, are also buoyed by

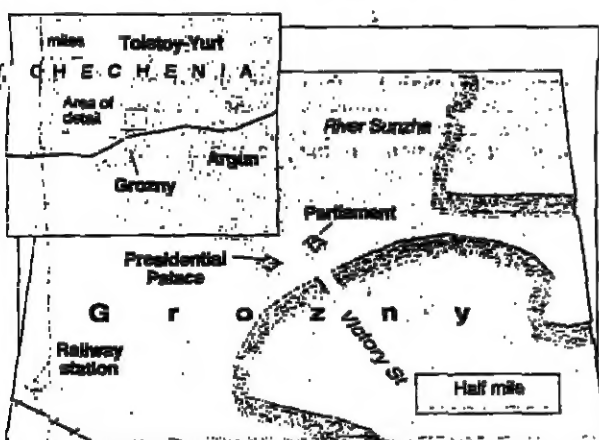
an Islamic resurgence, which has given a sense of divine right to their cause.

In more practical terms, the Chechens are well equipped for a prolonged guerrilla war. When Chechnya broke away from Russia in 1991 it seized a vast Soviet arsenal, mainly machineguns, rockets and mines.

There are also indications that the Chechens are receiving outside assistance. A well-placed official in Grozny said that an unnamed European country had sent weapons. One fighter admitted that he

and scores of other Chechens had received five months' military training in Afghanistan in 1994 from Moscow's old enemies, the Mujahidin.

With these forces arrayed against it, the Kremlin would do well to remember the remark of the first Russian general who tried to subdue the Caucasus. Nearly 200 years ago, General Alexei Yermolov, the commander of the Caucasian corps, was asked what he would need to help secure victory in his ten-year campaign. "One Chechen," he replied.



Yeltsin tying up a red-tape regime

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT YELTSIN faces a new year which promises continuing guerrilla warfare in Chechnya, a faltering fight against inflation, and a big realignment of the Russian political spectrum.

Fears are increasing that either the President or Russian democracy, or both, will not survive until 1996. By the end of this year, Mr Yeltsin will probably have had to decide whether to run in the presidential elections due in June 1996, to stand down in favour of someone else, or to postpone the vote. All the options look dangerous.

Boris Fyodorov, a liberal politician and former Yeltsin supporter, said: "The Presidents only chance to preserve his dignity until the next

parliamentary elections and have been virtually obliterated in regional ballots. It is questionable whether a serious political base or liberal ideology now exists in Russia."

Mr Yeltsin has seemed to be moving towards the creation of a mildly authoritarian bureaucratic regime based on the amorphous "centre" of Russian politics, dominated by middle-ranking figures from the Soviet establishment.

In any case, as Chechnya has shown, the importance of the Council of Ministers has been drastically reduced in recent months. Senior ministers have admitted that they knew nothing at all of the planning of the Chechnya operation. The intervention has strengthened a widespread impression that Mr Yeltsin is relying on, or even controlled by, a very small group of personal advisers. Chief among these are General Aleksandr Kozlov, his personal security chief, and Oleg Lobov, the National Security Council secretary.

The Yeltsin administration seems to be relying increasingly on the Ministries of Defence and the Interior, headed respectively by Generals Pavel Grachev and Viktor Yerin. The Chechnya operation, however, has disclosed serious weaknesses in both ministries.

The moves against the rebel Chechens has also worsened still further the fundamental weakness crippling the Russian Government: the continuing decline of the formal economy and the inability to raise enough taxes from the new economy to pay for the state's immense tasks.

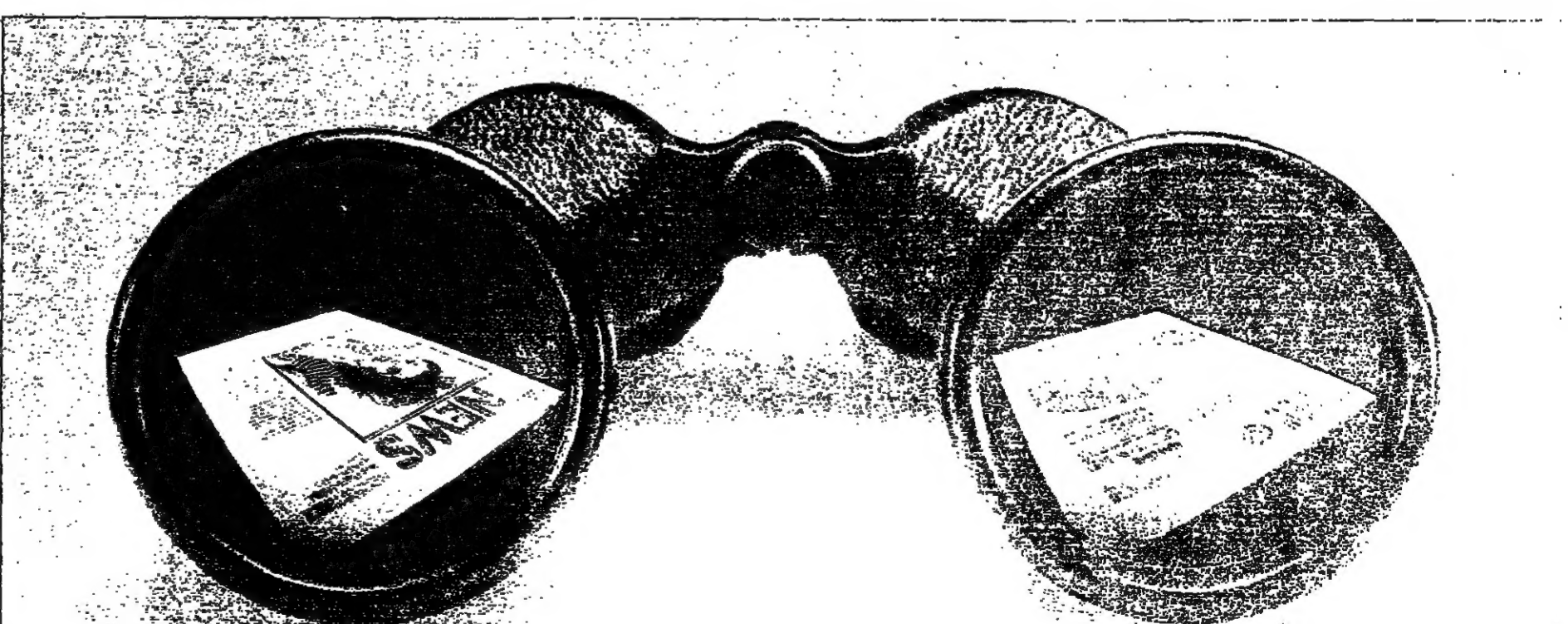
A report this week said that Russian industrial output last year shrank by 15 per cent, meaning that it is now at less than 45 per cent of its 1991 levels.

KREMLIN OPTIONS

elections is to establish order in Chechnya, but he has shown inefficiency in doing so. Yegor Gaidar, the former Prime Minister, has also withdrawn his support. Of all the leading liberals, or "democrats," only Andrei Kozhevnikov, the foreign minister, remains wholeheartedly committed to the President.

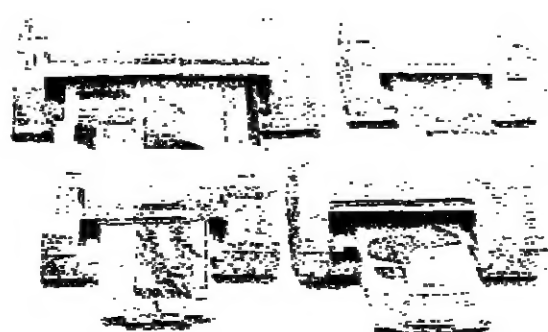
Instead, Mr Yeltsin is now being praised for his tough approach to Chechnya by assorted hardline nationalists including Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, the self-styled Liberal Democrat, who apparently hopes that the Chechnya war will simultaneously strengthen Russian nationalism and weaken Mr Yeltsin.

The Chechnya crisis, however, has only formalised a split between Mr Yeltsin and the liberals, which has become increasingly obvious over the past year. The liberals did badly in the December 1993



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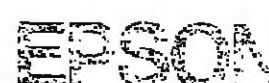
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Truce deal fails to win over Serbs on peace map

FROM JOEL BRAND IN SARAJEVO AND TIM JUDAH IN BELGRADE

ARMY generals representing the United Nations, the Sarajevo Government and Bosnian Serbs spent New Year's Day ironing out details for implementing the four-month agreement on cessation of hostilities, signed on Saturday, which many hope will bring the 33-month-old war to an end.

Following the Sarajevo tradition, troops on both sides of the confrontation line ushered in the new year with bursts of rifle and machinegun fire and a few shells.

The celebrations were more restrained than the previous two years when many residents were injured during a 45-minute fusillade. This year a French UN soldier was wounded in the groin by gunfire, but it was not immediately clear how the incident occurred.

Talks at Sarajevo airport yesterday, hosted by Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Rose, the UN commander in Bosnia, focused on establishing a "joint commission" between the two sides that would stabilise the ceasefire and work towards disengagement. The difference between a ceasefire and the agreement on cessation of hostilities signed on Saturday is that the latter calls for frontline troops to pull back from some positions, the interposing of some UN peacekeepers and other measures designed to be at least a temporary suspension of the war.

Despite the success of the Bosnia-wide ceasefire thus far, many UN officials are saying that the agreement is only a pause in the war. An end to fighting would have to stem from a political settlement, which most agree remains unlikely. A July peace plan, put forward by the Contact Group of Britain, France, Germany, America and Russia, remains on the table. The Bosnian Government has agreed to it but the Serbs have repeatedly refused to sign it. Much of the arduous negotiations of the past three weeks by UN representatives and Jimmy Carter, the former US President, have been snagg-

on the issue of the Contact Group's initiative, initially presented as a "take it or leave it" document.

Yasushi Akashi, the UN special envoy in Bosnia, said yesterday that the ceasefire would be followed soon by renewed political negotiations, the first since last summer.

"It is my expectation that very soon — before the end of the third week of January — negotiations aimed at political settlements and a peace treaty will commence under the auspices of the Contact Group," Mr Akashi said at the Bosnian capital's airport.

It was originally intended that the army commanders from both sides would attend the talks hosted by General Rose, which are expected to continue for several weeks. In the event, both top generals sent their deputies.

In the past, such seemingly minor snubs have signalled the insincerity of one or both parties in negotiations and agreements. That, coupled with the vagueness of the truce document negotiated by Gen-

eral Rose and signed on Saturday, casts a shadow over a move that many UN officials believe is the most promising accord of the war.

However, General Ratko Mladic, the Bosnian Serb military commander, welcomed the four-month truce: "The time has come for the guns to fall silent and for diplomacy to speak up." At the

same time, a senior Bosnian Serb official said yesterday that his side still utterly rejected the premises of the Contact Group peace plan and said that his side "would not budge" from its positions.

Jovan Zanicic, a key adviser to Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, said that not only did the Bosnian Serbs still reject the plan's proposed division of the republic, giving 49 per cent to them and 51 per cent to the Muslims and Croats, but that they would never agree to a single Bosnian state either.

Mr Zanicic said that under no circumstances would the Serbs accept such a division. "It is ludicrous to talk about percentages," he said. "As the Contact Group map is to be considerably modified, then the percentages will have to change too. If at the end of the day all are happy, then it is not important what the percentages are."

Mr Zanicic also said that there would be no compromise on the question on the constitutional arrangements for Bosnia. The international community and the Bosnian Government insist that the republic's territorial integrity must be preserved. There could be no question of accepting this, he said.

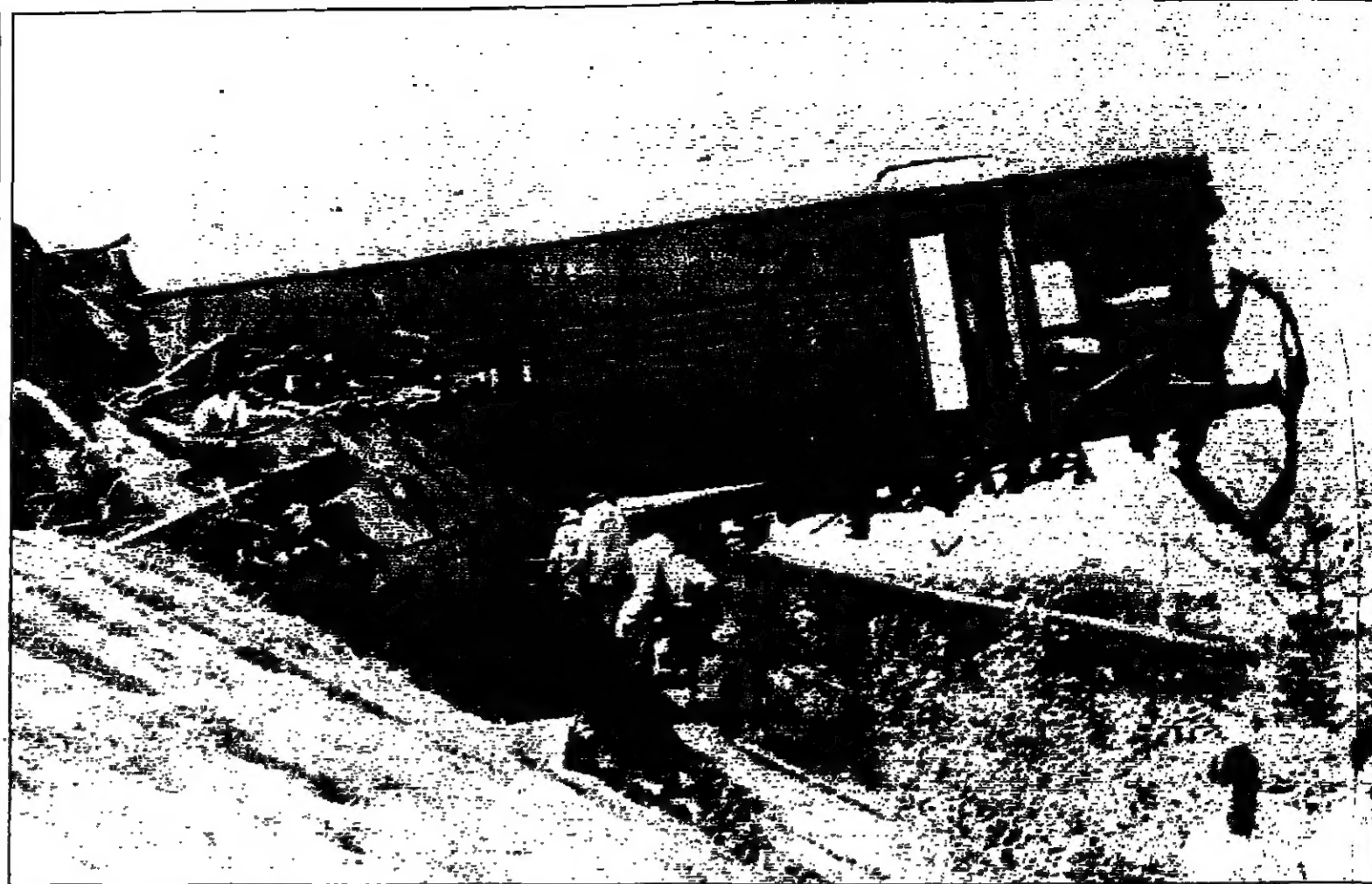
Holding to a fundamental Bosnian Serb position, Mr Zanicic said that any peace agreement had to recognise the sovereignty and independence of their self-proclaimed Republika Srpska. "We will never recognise a single Bosnia," he said. "No constitutional trick will keep us in Bosnia and there will be no Muslim Bosnia lorded it over us."



Akashi: new talks will begin later this month

eral Rose and signed on Saturday, casts a shadow over a move that many UN officials believe is the most promising accord of the war.

However, General Ratko Mladic, the Bosnian Serb military commander, welcomed the four-month truce: "The time has come for the guns to fall silent and for diplomacy to speak up." At the



Eight people were killed and 17 were seriously injured when the Udayan Express train, travelling from Bombay with 1,000 passengers, was derailed at 60 mph on an embankment near the village of Yelahanka, 12 miles from its destination, the southern Indian city of Bangalore

President rejects Berlusconi poll plea as coalition talks continue

FROM SARAH CUNNINGHAM IN ROME

PRESIDENT SCALFARO, who is responsible for solving Italy's complex political crisis, has firmly opposed the early elections demanded by Silvio Berlusconi, the outgoing Prime Minister.

In a televised New Year's Eve address to the nation, he said it was his constitutional duty to find out whether a new coalition could be formed from the present parliament. That, he said, was the will of the majority of its members.

"We are at an important crossroads," he said, adding that he would be guided by two points of reference: "The constitution... and the result of last March's elections."

Signor Berlusconi emerged victorious from those polls at the head of an alliance formed by his Forza Italia party, the federalist Northern League

and the far-right National Alliance. However, three days before Christmas, Italy was plunged into crisis when he resigned after the League, always an awkward bedfellow, pulled out of the coalition government.

President Scalfaro will hold a second round of talks with political leaders from tomorrow to try to end the turmoil that has seen the lira tumble to record lows against the mark.

Last week, Signor Berlusconi urged the President to call a general election on March 26, exactly a year after the vote that brought him to power. He argued that the electorate had been betrayed by the League's defection.

In his address, Signor Scalfaro denied Signor Berlusconi's claim that parliament had lost its legitimacy. Despite

the obvious tension between the two men, the President used his address to speak directly to the man who is still acting Prime Minister: "I say to him with affection, with respect for his position... that we are all perhaps called on to make some sacrifices."

Signor Berlusconi has so far made one apparent concession to the President. On Friday, he dropped his demand to lead a caretaker government in the run-up to a general election.

Signor Scalfaro said it would be preferable for Italy to vote after the completion of institutional and electoral reform. In the last general election, Italians voted under a mixed system, with 75 per cent of seats being decided by a first-past-the-post system, and the rest by proportional representation. The League, the

Catholic Popular Party and the Democratic Party of the Left, all of which welcomed the President's message, maintain that there should be a broadly-based transitional government to refine the voting rules.

Umberto Bossi, the League leader, said yesterday: "Berlusconi is finished. There is now a parliamentary majority which will be able to achieve the necessary reforms one by one." The priority, Signor Bossi said, was new "anti-trust" rules for the media.

He and other opposition politicians claim that Signor Berlusconi's ownership of three national television channels, as well as controversial appointments that were made by his Government at RAI, the state broadcasting corporation, make a fair election campaign impossible.

PLO gives warning of renewed uprising

FROM BILL HUTMAN IN JERUSALEM

AN ADVISER to Yasser Arafat, the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, gave a warning yesterday that any Israeli takeover of Arab lands could revive the intifada.

Ahmed Tibi spoke on the eve of an Israeli Cabinet meeting called to consider whether to halt construction of a Jewish settlement near the village of al-Khader in the occupied West Bank. Mr Arafat said last week that work on the settlement was a flagrant violation of the Israeli-PLO peace accord.

The Israeli Cabinet today will consider the advice of Michael Ben-Yair, the attorney-general, that construction should be legally stopped at the site near the settlements of Efrat if financial compensation were offered to the settlers.

Two bulldozers worked without disturbance at the site yesterday and demonstrators were banned from the area by military order.

In a separate development, Lieutenant-General Amnon Lipkin-Shahak officially took command of the Israel Defence Forces yesterday vowing to keep the military strong. "Without the army there will be no progress towards peace," he said.



Rabin: Cabinet will consider legal option



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Euro commissioners face symbolic but light grilling

FROM WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU IN BRUSSELS

THE European Parliament will this week begin a process of US Senate-style confirmation hearings of 20 new European commissioners, in a display that is expected to be high on symbolism but low on drama and substance.

The new commissioners will be grilled on their plans for the next five years, although they need not expect personal questions of the kind that Clarence Thomas had to endure in the Senate on his way to the US Supreme Court. The MEPs will not even take a vote on the individual commissioners at the end.

One potential highlight, the prospect of Glynis Kinnock, MEP, interviewing her husband, commissioner-designate Neil Kinnock, will not take place. The stage managers would not allow it.

Jacques Santer's Commission will represent 15 mem-

bers of the European Union, after the accession yesterday of Austria, Finland and Sweden. There is little doubt that the parliament will approve the commissioners in a single vote at a meeting in Strasbourg, set for January 18.

With Mr Santer and Edith Cresson from France, it will include two former Prime Ministers, Mr Kinnock, a former leader of the Opposition, and Monika Wulf-Mathies from Germany, a former leader of the world's largest trade union. The Socialists will have a small majority.

The most powerful man will not be Mr Santer, but Jim Cloos, a man hardly known except among a small group of insiders in Luxembourg or Brussels. Mr Cloos will be Mr Santer's chief of cabinet, a post which combines the role of chief adviser with important

administrative functions, such as the right to set the agenda of the weekly Commission meetings. Mr Cloos almost single-handedly thwarted Sir Leon Brittan's attempt to be appointed commissioner responsible for Central and Eastern Europe. After a tied vote in the college of new commissioners, Mr Santer heeded his adviser.

The new Commission will need more than just tactical ingenuity to rekindle the political initiative, which its predecessor appeared to lose last year. On social policy, the perennial source of dispute with the British Government, the emphasis will shift from EU directives towards "big issue initiatives" on competitiveness and employment. The single market programme has also passed its high watermark. Instead, there will be a lot of talk about new technologies and small businesses.

African despots vow to back democracy

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

LEADERS of three authoritarian African governments promised in their New Year's Day messages to hasten steps towards free elections and greater democracy.

President Moi of Kenya said he would invite foreign experts to help draw up proposals for a new constitution, and called for patience and national unity. President Mobutu of Zaire told politicians to prepare for imminent elections, and called for a transition to democracy within the next six months.

General Sani Abacha, Nigeria's military ruler, said that steps to end army rule would begin soon. All three govern-

ments came under criticism from human rights campaigners last year, and in each country opposition politicians have been arrested and harshly treated. Western governments gave a cautious welcome to yesterday's announcements.

President Moi, in his message, said he would invite constitutional experts from the West, including Britain, America, France and Germany, to help assess the views of Kenyans on a new constitution. He said all Kenyans must focus their efforts on realising national, rather than personal or party, interests.

In Nigeria, where Western and Commonwealth governments have repeated-

ly called for a return to civilian rule and the release of Chief Moshood Abiola, regarded as the winner of 1993's aborted elections, General Abacha announced that within the coming month "the tempo of activities leading to our disengagement will be intensified". The general appeared to hint that he would accept the recommendation by a government-organised constitutional conference to hand over office within a year.

In Zaire, where the President and the Government have been in conflict for much of the past year, Mr Mobutu said that future prosperity depended on ending the nation's political confusion.

Police shake-up plan

Johannesburg: A shake-up in the top echelons of South Africa's police is to be given priority by President Mandela (Ray Kennedy writes).

Sidney Mufamadi, Minister of Safety and Security, said at the weekend that national and regional commissioners more "representative" of the population are to be appointed and that some of the 47 white generals — there are only

three blacks who have reached staff rank — will be deployed elsewhere and may be replaced by civilians.

The changes involve elevating the status of local station commanders to ensure a closer relationship with the communities in which they serve. A committee has also been set up to investigate racial discrimination in police promotion.

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Gingrich primed for 100-day war on Capitol Hill

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE Republican revolution begins this week with Capitol Hill's radical new leaders promising the biggest transformation of American life since Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal.

Newt Gingrich, the new Speaker, and his cohorts in the House of Representatives envisage nothing less than the ultimate overthrow of President Roosevelt's welfare state, and plan to launch that effort with a gambit stolen directly from FDR's handbook — a 100-day legislative blitz designed to flatten all opposition.

Initially, at least, the Democrats look unlikely to offer much serious resistance. Since his party's rout in the November elections President Clinton has been moving sharply rightwards in a desperate bid to avoid being left behind, and will be reluctant to use his veto.

The real questions are to what extent the Senate's older and more moderate Republicans will seek to temper the Gingrich programme and whether the American public will recoil when it understands what that programme entails. Robert Dole, the new Republican Senate leader, has already warned darkly that some of the more extreme Gingrichian proposals "may have to be modified, altered or maybe postponed".

For the moment, however, Mr Gingrich is the man to watch. He has curbed the power of committee chairmen, installed loyalists into all key posts, and begun dismantling a vast administrative staff built up during 40 years of unbroken Democratic rule. Even the House chaplain looks likely to go. Tomorrow the 230 House Republicans,

not one of whom has ever served in a majority, will have a final dry run, and on Wednesday the 104th Congress will kick off with what they promise will be the longest and most productive opening day of any Congress. By midnight or shortly thereafter the House is expected to have approved measures requiring a three-fifths majority to enact any income tax increases, making Congress subject to laws governing the rest of America, abolishing several House committees and subcommittees, cutting staff levels, limiting how long the Speaker and committee chairmen may serve, opening almost all congressional proceedings to the public and initiating an independent audit of Congress to eliminate fraud, waste and abuse.

"At the end of the day the American people will say 'Lord have mercy, look what they've done already and it's only the first day,'" said Richard Armitage, the House Republican leader.

Mr Gingrich is inviting the country's radio talk show hosts to cover an opening burst of action which should contrast starkly with the legislative "gridlock" of recent years. He will also announce the House's new Internet address.

The House will spend the next 99 days enacting "Contract with America", the Republican election platform which Mr Gingrich intends to have read out at the beginning of each day's session until each of its ten solemn pledges has been voted on.

Mr Gingrich predicts his "first smashing victory" will be on a constitutional amendment mandating a balanced federal budget. Less certain will be the outcome of House and Senate votes on limiting how long congressmen may serve. Since winning power, Republican enthusiasm for term limits has waned.

The "contract" also envisages radical curtailment of welfare benefits, still tougher crime prevention including a more enforceable death penalty, tax breaks for middle-class families and small businesses, a stronger military and reform of a legal system that is almost out of control.

Mr Clinton is wisely absenting himself from Washington for most of this week. He will be nursing his wounds in his native Arkansas, the one place where his support remains reasonably solid.

Republican House pledge

THE Republican "Contract with America" promises House votes within 100 days on:

- The Fiscal Responsibility Act for balanced budgets.
- The Taking Back Our Streets Act against crime.
- The Personal Responsibility Act curtailing mothers' welfare.
- The Family Reinforcement Act for the nuclear family.
- The American Dream Restoration Act offering family tax breaks.
- The National Security Reform Act reversing defence cuts.
- The Common Sense Legal Reform Act limiting punitive damages.

Clinton makes lukewarm visit to liberals' hothouse

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE highlight of this year's Renaissance Weekend was meant to be President Clinton joining other prestigious invitees in a symposium on the topic, "If I Were President: What I'd Say to the Nation ... in Two Minutes".

For each of the past 11 years, Mr Clinton has spent several days at new year with family and friends at the high-powered policy retreat on the exclusive island resort of Hilton Head, off the coast of South Carolina. It was a time to relax, meet new people, and to do what Mr Clinton has

always liked best — chew over policy ideas in a relaxed atmosphere.

But this year, Mr Clinton evidently felt uncomfortable cosying up to the liberal establishment quite so soon after the populist backlash against his party in the recent elections. Although his daughter, Chelsea, preceded him earlier in the week, Mr Clinton cut his own stay at the four-day retreat to just 24 hours and arrived too late on Saturday for the forum on the model two-minute presidential speech. The White House

said he had been forced to cut short the visit by the incident of the captured American helicopter pilot in North Korea.

The Renaissance Weekend was started 13 years ago by a local businessman and his wife with the aim of bringing together modern "renaissance" men and women in an informal atmosphere. The qualifications are "innovative achievement on a national or regional level" and "a renaissance spirit with broad-ranging intellectual interests". The objective is "personal and national renewal".

Stand Up For Choice



Pro-choice supporters held a candlelight vigil in Boston for the two dead and five injured in shootings at abortion clinics in Massachusetts. More than 2,000 people took part

Fears persist after clinic gun suspect is arrested

BY MARTIN FLETCHER

THE gunman believed to have killed two people and wounded five at two Massachusetts abortion clinics will be formally charged tomorrow after being arrested in Norfolk, Virginia, where he had opened fire on a third clinic.

The arrest of John Salvi, a 23-year-old loner, ended a manhunt that started after Friday's shootings, but it failed to quell public alarm over the violent tactics being embraced by anti-abortion fanatics. Five Americans have now died in four separate attacks on abortion clinics over the past 22 months.

Police had identified Mr Salvi from a gun retrieved after Friday's shootings, but when they swooped on the New Hampshire motel that was his last known address early on Saturday morning, he had already fled, they said.

Later in the day he allegedly arrived at Norfolk's Hillcrest clinic, a 12-hour drive to the south. He reportedly pulled a rifle from a bag and opened fire on the clinic,

shattering its glass doors and terrifying about 50 people inside. He then allegedly drove away, but was stopped and arrested within minutes.

Mr Salvi, after being formally charged in Norfolk, will be returned to Massachusetts to face two murder and five attempted murder charges. He is a trainee hairdresser and those who know him described him as an "oddball" and deeply religious. He had a picture of an aborted foetus on his vehicle.

Law enforcement agencies promised increased protection for America's abortion clinics, but pro-choice activists want still more. The National Organisation for Women said: "We are demanding that the Justice Department step up its investigation."

Moderate leaders of the pro-life movement condemned the use of violence against abortion clinics, but the more extreme did not. "We're in a war," said Don Treshman, the national director of Rescue America. "The only thing is that until recently the casualties have only been on one side. There are 30 million dead babies and only five people on the other side, so it's really nothing to get all excited about."

Capital crime: The murder rate in Washington fell 11 per cent last year but it still remains high at 44 killings for the year, according to the FBI. The US capital ranked third after New Orleans, and Richmond, Virginia. (AFP)



Salvi: trainee hairdresser who is deeply religious

Liberal Canada lurches to the right

FROM RICHARD CLEROUN IN OTTAWA

CANADA, long considered one of the more liberal Western democracies, has been following America's rightward trend and is becoming a more conservative and less tolerant society.

The swing to the right is reflected at every level of Canadian society from the family, the neighbourhood, local school boards and all the way up to the House of Commons. In Montreal, two boards have allowed schools to ban hijab, the Muslim code of modesty and chastity that requires women, including schoolgirls, to cover their heads.

In several schools, teenage girls have been sent home for observing hijab. The decision has been denounced by civil libertarians, multicultural organisations and Muslim groups as racist and discriminatory and a violation of Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Quebec nationalists see the hijab as divisive. Some believe that the controversy is linked to events in France where at least 17 Muslim schoolgirls have been expelled from state schools for wearing such headscarves.

The controversy has grown because the ban on hijab is worded to include all religious headgear, which is likely to provoke a confrontation with Jews and Sikhs if school officials interpret the ban to exclude both skull caps and turbans.

On the west coast, a group of parents in British Columbia who identify themselves as conservative Christians, have gained influence in deciding what programmes and school texts are taught in their public-funded Christian schools. They have banned all references to magic and witchcraft. Halloween and native spirituality in school texts in the Surrey Catholic traditional school in a suburb of Vancouver. The teachers' associations and civil liberties groups have protested to no avail because the parents control the schools.

In a separate development, the federal Government announced earlier this month that it will not pay compensation to thousands of Chinese, Ukrainian, Jewish and Italian Canadians who suffered discrimination and injustices such as internment and confiscation of property during the First and Second World Wars. Canada levied a head tax on the Chinese between 1885 and 1923 requiring Chinese immigrants to pay as much as £320, then the equivalent of two years' wages. The Government raised millions of pounds at the expense of the Chinese immigrants.



Cardoso: architect of economic recovery

Brazil's new leader banking on boom

BY TUNKE VARADAKJIAN

BRAZIL was yesterday poised to ride the crest of an economic boom as a new President took office and a regional Latin American customs union came into being.

The architect of Brazil's latest economic recovery, Fernando Cardoso, begins his administration amid widespread hopes for better days. The Social Democrat succeeds the colourful Itamar Franco, under whom he served as Finance Minister.

It was while in control of the economy that Senator Cardoso crafted the real, the latest in a long line of Brazilian currencies. The real, tied to the dollar, is regarded as the weapon which overcame Brazil's tenacious inflation, running at over 40 per cent a month at the time of the currency's introduction. Inflation is now 2.5 per cent a month.

Senator Cardoso's success in the presidential elections last October — when he easily defeated his closest rival, Luis Inacio "Lula" da Silva of the Workers' Party — was due in large measure to his economic reforms. He is expected to consolidate his anti-inflation strategy. Brazil's GDP is predicted, as a result, to grow by approximately 7 per cent in 1995. Western fund managers now rate Brazil as one of the most lucrative places in which to invest, and the prospect looms of the privatisation of the country's giant oil and telecommunications sectors.

A booming Brazil is expected to stimulate economic growth in the countries of the Mercosur, the customs union which came into force yesterday, and which also includes Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay.

THE TIMES Win the trip of a lifetime to the biggest party in history

Today is day seven of The Times Millennium 2000, which offers readers the opportunity to spend New Year's Eve 1999 crossing the International Date Line to both Fiji and the Cook Islands to see in the new millennium twice. First prize is a 28 day world air cruise for two culminating in New Year 1999 in Fiji and the Cook Islands to join in the festivities. The trip takes in Dubai, Thailand, Singapore, Tucson, Washington and Sydney. It includes helicopter sightseeing over the Fiji Islands and hot-air ballooning over the Arizona desert, and would cost £64,000 to book in 1999.

A second prize of a ten day stay for two in Fiji and the Cook Islands worth up to £7,000 and a third prize of two tickets chosen from any of the millennium party venues available to readers are also on offer.

Should you be unsuccessful in the competition, you can still take part in the festivities by booking the Fiji and Cook Islands trip separately or taking advantage of our selection of deluxe party venues round the world.

The parties are the brainchild of The Millennium Foundation, a non-profit-making charity which is organising fundraising parties to help specific local charities across the world. In St Petersburg, for instance, the money will help restore the Hermitage gallery and fund the Kirov Ballet.

You could, for example, celebrate the dawn of the new millennium in the semi-tropical paradise of Bermuda. You will languish in luxury in the palatial Southampton Princess Hotel - Bermuda's most luxurious resort situated on the highest point on the island within a 100-acre estate. Golf, tennis, scuba diving and sailing are all available. The cost in 1999 would be £3,250 per person, but readers can secure their places now for £2,250 each.

Commencing December 28, 1999, the cost includes air travel and hotel accommodation and your ticket to the gala party on New Year's Eve.

To enter the competition collect the 18 tokens and answer the 18 questions which are appearing between December 26 and Saturday January 14. Send the tokens and answers on a separate sheet of paper, stating in not more than 15 words why you would like to join in the celebrations, to: The Times Millennium 2000 Competition, 5 Brittons Court, London EC8B 6NG. Closing date January 31, 1995. Normal Times competition rules apply.

Details of how to book the millennium gala parties, which appeared last week, will appear again on Saturday. Further information about the parties can be obtained by writing to: Millennium 2000 Ltd, Freeport GW 7623, Glasgow G3 7BR.



Prospect of trade clash between US and China grows

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

A POTENTIALLY disastrous trade war between Washington and Peking over Chinese piracy of American goods loomed nearer over the weekend.

Peking called American threats to impose sanctions on \$2.8-billion (£1.8-billion) worth of Chinese exports "barbaric action" and listed millions of dollars worth of retaliatory sanctions against American companies.

Also over the weekend, the Americans issued a 12-page list of the Chinese goods that would be targeted by sanctions. Apart from electronic products, they range from brass household chandeliers and fishing rods to canned nuts and paddling pools.

The Hong Kong Government expressed alarm at the damage such a trade war between its two largest trading partners would wreak here. Many local manufacturers invest heavily in Chinese factories and much of the bilateral trade between America and China moves through the colony.

At issue is Chinese pilfering of "intellectual" goods, such as CDs and video films. Some hit videos, such as *Jurassic Park* and *The Lion King*, went on sale in China before they were available in the United States.

Some experts claim that virtually all American music recordings, software, videos and books sold in China are pirated. Twenty-nine Chinese factories, some state-owned, are pressing 75 million pirated discs annually. Washington has demanded the closure of the factories.

The Americans have extended the deadline before they impose sanctions from December 31 to February 4. In previous struggles over copyright, Peking has climbed down at the last hour. But it has done little to enforce its promises to crack down on piracy.

The conflict has become increasingly bitter, with the chief American negotiator, Mickey Kantor, accusing the Chinese of "a failure of will, not a failure of ability", while Peking has threatened to scrap or suspend joint-venture agreements not only with the major American car and aircraft firms but with all US firms. This would affect audio cassette tapes, videos, cigarettes and pharmaceuticals among other products.

The bilateral trade is huge but unequal. Chinese goods shipped to America constitute 40 per cent of all China's exports. In the first 10 months of last year the trade surplus in favour of China was \$24.6 billion and it is another American demand that US goods be granted greater access to the Chinese market.

What is fuelling the bitterness is Peking's perception that America is responsible for preventing China from rejoining the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), and thus becoming a founder member of the new World Trade Organisation which comes into effect today. All this is part of America's "bluster" to force China to surrender to unreasonable demands. Peking maintained over the weekend.

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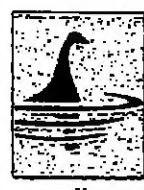
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A famous stretch of water yields a harvest of history □ Antibody helps to curb the growth of tumours □ Buildings create their own power



THE bottom of Loch Ness, little investigated for many years except by anorak-clad enthusiasts looking for the monster, is now rewarding proper study with an avalanche of interesting data.

Much of it comes from cores drilled into the bottom of the loch, where fine sediments provide an unequalled record of climatic and other changes over the past 10,000 years. Two cores more than six metres long have been drilled in a water depth of more than 300 metres.

The pollens within them show that the Highlands of Scotland enjoyed a golden age between about 4,000 and 2,000 years ago. Then, says Kate Furr of Wolverhampton University, "The northern part of the British Isles basked in the same kind of climate that the countries around the Mediterranean Sea enjoy today."

Summers were hot, winters warmer and drier, the country was covered with lush green forests and there were clear blue skies for most of the year. Life

would certainly have been easier during this period, which spanned the end of the new Stone Age and the time when the inhabitants started using bronze tools.

Adrian Shine, of the Loch Ness Project, says the pollens begin at the end of the last glaciation with evidence of Siberian vegetation, progress through forestation, with birches and later oaks, and then show the rise of the Caledonian Forest dominated by Scots Pines.

The cores may be able to explain archaeological evidence from the

Secrets of Loch Ness



SCIENCE BRIEFING

Nigel Hawkes

region which suggests that the population, growing during the rainy period, abruptly disappeared. The hypothesis is that the eruption of a volcano in Iceland might have caused cooling and crop failures, making the people flee. If so, there should be evidence, in the form of glassy volcanic fragments in the cores.

Shorter cores taken from the loch give evidence of more recent times, tracing the history of the Industrial Revolution through the increase and then decline of particles produced by coal and oil burning. These cores, now being

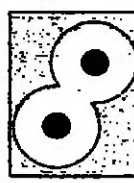
analysed by Dr Vivienne Jones at University College London, show that the loch does not appear to be getting any more acid, possibly because acid rain is successfully buffered by the huge volume of water.

But they do show a slight enrichment in the loch water over the past 20 years, caused by human activities such as the use of fertilisers. This is indicated by a small shift in the types of diatoms, tiny creatures whose shells are preserved in the sediments. There are now fewer of the bottom-dwelling benthic diatoms, and more of the planktonic type. The cores also record the peak in atmospheric nuclear weapon testing (1963) and the Chernobyl accident in 1986.

Some mysteries remain. Why, for example, is there a layer of grit deeply buried in the bottom of the loch, when the rest of the sediment consists of very fine material? This could be evidence of a catastrophic flood thousands of years ago, when a huge volume of water swept through the loch carrying the grit with it.

With data as interesting as this, who needs monsters?

Cell death



A NEW treatment for cancer could emerge from experiments reported last week in *Cell* by researchers at the Scripps Research Institute in La Jolla, California. By using an antibody called LM609, the Scripps team has succeeded in test-tube experiments in preventing the growth of newly-formed blood vessels. Creating such vessels is essential for a tumour, which needs a blood supply in order to keep on growing.

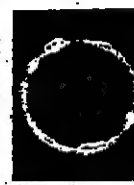
The antibody tricks these newly-forming vessels into self-destruction, or programmed cell death, by interfering with their survival signal," said Dr David Cheresh of Scripps, who is working on the research with Dr Peter Brooks.

The Scripps team used human tumour fragments placed in chicken embryos. Within a few hours, the pieces of tumour began attracting new blood vessels, just as they would in human beings. They

were then injected with the antibody, or with a control antibody. In those injected with LM609, the blood vessels to the tumours shrank and disappeared in the pancreas, breast, brain, lung and larynx. But in those treated with the control substance, the blood vessels proliferated and the tumours thrived.

Dr Cheresh said: "We don't want to oversell this — there is a lot more research to be done. But so far, we have a green light."

Hot news



THE first building in Britain to be completely clad in solar cells has been completed at the University of Northumbria, in Newcastle. Work was finished last week and the building is due to be opened on January 19 by Ian Taylor, junior minister at the Department of Trade and Industry, which has helped support the project.

The building that has been transformed is a typical 1960s

office block, which was beginning to show its age. The idea is to demonstrate that even in as northerly a latitude as Tyneside, solar cladding can generate useful amounts of power, as well as forming part of a building's exterior skin.

The electricity generated will be used within the building, after conversion to alternating current. When the sun is bright and internal demand small, such as during weekends, power will be fed into the university's own system and supply other buildings on the campus. It will also be linked to the local electricity grid.

A study carried out for the DTI and completed in 1991 suggested that cladding commercial buildings with photovoltaic cells could generate significant amounts of energy. By 2020, it was estimated, 100 gigawatts of capacity might be created in this way, almost twice Britain's total generating capacity at present.

An achievable target would be a more modest 12 GW — still very significant. The cost of electricity from the cells could be cheaper than conventionally-generated power within the next 15 years.

The moment that mankind took to the air

The pioneer of aviation was born 250 years ago — and his balloon is still a soaraway success, says Giles Coren

It is not often that aviation enthusiasts can celebrate an anniversary that looks back a quarter of a millennium into the mists of the 18th century. A science so unmistakably modern as that of manned flight, one would think, can search no further than this century for its historical landmarks. But January 9, 1745, 250 years ago this week, saw the birth of Jacques-Etienne, one of 16 children, to Monsieur Pierre Montgolfier, a paper manufacturer in the small town of Vidalon, near Annonay, in Southern France.

With his older brother, Joseph-Michel, Jacques was to become one of the first pioneers of the air, and the Montgolfiers the first in a succession of brother teams to change the history of transportation.

Jacques, the more diligent of the brothers (Joseph was a habitual truant from school), became a successful architect before taking that softest of bourgeois options and joining the family business — where he tasted the success of discovery with the invention of a process for manufacturing vellum.

Both brothers were fascinated by the aviation theories of such early scholars as the 14th-century Augustinian monk Albert of Saxony, and the 17th-century Jesuit priest Father Francesco de Lana de Terzi. But neither made any serious attempt themselves until 1782.

It was then, quite by chance, that they noticed while working in the family factory the effect of rising smoke on particles of unburnt paper. It was one of those epiphanies that litter scientific history, like Archimedes' bath or Newton's apple, that from small beginnings radically alter the way we live. Using this observation as a basis for their work, they progressed within two years from inflating paper bags to the first crewed, un-ethered balloon flight in 1783.

On April 25 of that year they had demonstrated their invention in the market square at Annonay. A sphere of paper and linen with a diameter of about 35ft, calculated as being able to carry a weight of 450lb, was placed over a wood fire, and rose to about 1,000ft before descending some 1,000 yards from the point of take-off. An uproarious crowd had

witnessed the first flight of a vehicle capable of sustaining the weight of a man.

Encouraged by this success, the brothers tried their invention on a more demanding audience. On September 19, a crowd that included King Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette watched a 41ft Montgolfier balloon take off from the garden at Versailles with a sheep, a duck and a cock on board — history's first air-passengers.

The balloon rose to 1,700ft and headed off towards the forest of Vaucresson, where it descended eight minutes and two miles later. The passengers were unharmed and, by all accounts, very much enjoyed their flight.

Two months later came the first manned flight in an unethered balloon. François Pilâtre de Rozier and the Marquis de d'Arlandes made a 25-minute voyage from the Bois de Boulogne. Dirigibility being still a dream of the future, they drifted to and fro across Paris before landing at the Butte-aux-Cailles, some five-and-a-half miles away.

Brilliant though they were, the brothers did not get everything right. As well as the wood they burnt to generate the necessary heat, they also used manure, believing that the foul smell produced when it ignited was what was responsible for the levitation. Naming this emission phlogiston, they claimed to have discovered a new gas, not

for a minute putting down their success to the fact that hot air rises. Their claims were swiftly refuted.

Sadly for the Montgolfiers, their position at the forefront of aviation was also to be challenged. The Robert brothers made the first flight in a hydrogen balloon on December 1, only 40 days later.

By the time of Jacques's death in 1799 the hydrogen balloon was the preferred method of aerial transportation, and it was not until the 1960s that the Montgolfier influence was felt again.

"We have the American airforce to thank for that," says Crispin Williams, chairman of the British Ballooning and Airship Club. "They were still using dirigibles at the

time, and were looking for a cheap way to train their pilots. Hot air had not been used since the 18th century but the Americans put a lot of money into development, and recreational hot air ballooning soon followed."

"The advantage of the hot air balloon is the saving in price and time. The fuel for a flight costs only £25 and you can erect a balloon in about 20 minutes. After the flight it takes the same amount of time to dismantle. There is also the advantage that you can do it anywhere — not just where gas is available."

Considering that it takes four hours and costs up to £1,500 to fill a hydrogen balloon, it is not surprising that the ballooning boom of the past 25 years has

been centred on the Montgolfier design.

"The Montgolfiers failed because they had to burn wood from a brazier and used paper to make the balloons," Mr Williams says. "On landing, the basket would often turn over and ignite the balloon. Now we have propane canisters providing gas to a heater of the kind used for central heating systems, and the canopy is nylon."

Although the Montgolfiers were too busy ballooning to have children themselves, there are descendants of nephews and cousins at large in France — the family business is now a pottery. The present Jacques-Etienne, ac-

cording to Mr Williams, is a well-known balloonist, but the French have been left behind.

Mr Williams is also head of Thunder & Co., now part of Cameron, the biggest balloon makers in Britain. "We make the best balloons in the world," he claims. "Eighty per cent of the 350 we produce annually are exported, mostly to America. At anything from £8,000 to £30,000 per balloon, that represents a healthy trade."

The gas balloon market, by contrast, is nearly dead, with no more than one or two built each year. "No other recreation gives you a noise-free 360 degree panorama of the English countryside, and the time to talk about it with a group of friends," Mr Williams says.

"And the fact that 70 per cent of British balloons are owned by hiring agents or by companies who use them for advertising ties nicely into history. From the very outset balloons were about commercialism. The Montgolfiers developed them only because they were looking for new ways to sell paper. The balloon was invented by market forces."

And, at last, the business venture is paying dividends. "The real joy of balloon flight," according to Mr Williams, "is that you set off on a journey and never know where you are going." So was it in the dawn of aviation when two brothers put a sheep in a flying basket. The Montgolfiers have finally landed.



High flyers of the 18th century: a Montgolfier brothers' balloon flies over Aranjuez, Spain, in 1784 (from a painting by Antonio Carricero)

A library is thought in cold storage.

Herbert Samuel

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Marvels of calculus

A new book attempts to bring e out of hiding



John Napier came close to discovering e in 1614

No matter how basic our understanding of mathematics, we have become so accustomed to using abstract numbers in everyday life that we take them for granted. No cook wonders about the existence of half a lemon. No shopkeeper is able to balance his books without making use of negative numbers, those "absurd" quantities which, when added to their positive counterparts, give zero. The Greeks already worked confidently with the number π , the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter, and no hat box could be designed without it.

As algebra forced on us fractions and negative numbers, and as geometry is unthinkable without π , so is the number e the marvel of calculus.

While the history of the geometric constant π has been told many times, the number e remains the poor relation of popular science, hidden away behind the closed doors of higher mathematics. A new book, *The Story of a Number* (Princeton University Press, £19.95) sets the record straight. But what is e ?

Suppose I borrow £1 at an interest rate of 100 per cent a year. After a year I will owe £2 if the interest is compounded once only. However, the debt will be £2.25 if the interest is compounded twice in the year, £2.59 if compounded ten times in the year, £2.70 if compounded 100 times and so on, until ultimately the number $e = 2.71$

is reached. The practice of charging interest is probably as old as money itself, and one might expect e to have been discovered by shopkeepers and money lenders in the ancient world.

In the event, according to the author Eli Maor, it was the Scottish gentleman mathematician John Napier who came close to discovering e in 1614.

Maor gives e a well-deserved place in popular mathematics and at the same time stays true to the deep concepts of calculus from which e derives its central role in science.

In the number e , Maor has found a unifying theme for some of the most exciting history of calculus. Yet his book should be accessible to anyone with a basic knowledge of mathematics. He includes an account of the fascinating priority dispute between Newton and Leibniz, an account of the quarelling Bernoulli family, Euler's discovery of the beautiful formula $e^{-\pi i} = -1$, and even an apocryphal meeting between J.S. Bach and Johann Bernoulli.

In addition to the human and mathematical history, the book contains a potpourri of mathematical curiosities. These vary from an explanation of the logarithmic spiral and its occurrence in art and nature.

Maor gives e a well-deserved place in popular mathematics and at the same time stays true to the deep concepts of calculus from which e derives its central role in science.

ULRIKE TILLMANN
The author is a Fellow of Merton College, Oxford.

Anjana Ahuja on the astronomers who see double

THEY were drawn together by physical attraction. She was charmed by his rocky rugged exterior, he by her tall fragile demeanour. Their delicate courting ritual was consummated with a cosmic kiss. Together they wandered the universe, hand in hand among the stars.

No, this is not Mills & Boon but a summary of a new asteroid theory that has put the g -force back into the glamour of space science. Asteroids, previously thought to be solitary wanderers in the solar system, may be roaming in pairs.

Amateur astronomers had long reported seeing double occultations (block-out of stars by asteroids), suggesting a double-lobed shape for the asteroid. Yet only now, with irrefutable evidence uncovered by the Galileo spacecraft, have the professional astronomers been humbled into taking

Asteroids caught in a close encounter

notice of the binary asteroid idea.

Galileo had flown by the asteroid 243 Ida, a chunk of billion-year-old rock 55 kilometres long sitting in the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter. When scientists played back the images, they were astonished to find a little moonlet, later named Dactyl, orbiting Ida. It was the third such discovery in five years — at least two previous asteroids which sped past Earth had each been exposed as twin chunks of rocks snuggled together.

More evidence has lain under scientists' noses. About one seventh of the asteroids which impact on the Earth create a "double" crater. This suggests that a fair proportion of the near-Earth asteroids so beloved of doom-mongers may be pairs. The end may be doubly high.

It is believed that two large asteroids collided millions of years ago and gravity drew together pairs of rocks from the debris into either orbital pairs (not touching) or contact binary asteroids (touching).

Computer modelling carried out by Dan Durda at the University of Arizona, and reported in the latest issue of *Sky and Telescope*, recreates this catastrophic collision. He finds that both contact binaries and orbital pairs emerge. Now research is continuing into events that could herald double trouble for Earth.

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Village in the firing line

Should the Army hand back the Dorset village it commandeered in 1943 for D-Day practice? Walter Ellis reports

At the turn of the year, with the air cold and crisp and the winter sunshine washing almost horizontally across the valley, Tyneham, in Dorset's deep south, takes on an elemental quality.

A few cows and sheep graze in the distance in rough fields; the twin escarpments, north and south, their elongated brows sharp as a knife, enfold the peaceful acres below, revealing here and there a hint of the sea beyond. In the middle, looking tiny and vulnerable, the spire of the Church of St Mary the Virgin juts out of its surrounding trees, supported by a handful of stone buildings, most of them open to the sky.

Nobody lives there and just one road goes in and out. The only sign of life in the village is an Army Land Rover parked outside the church with the word "warden" in large letters painted on its side.

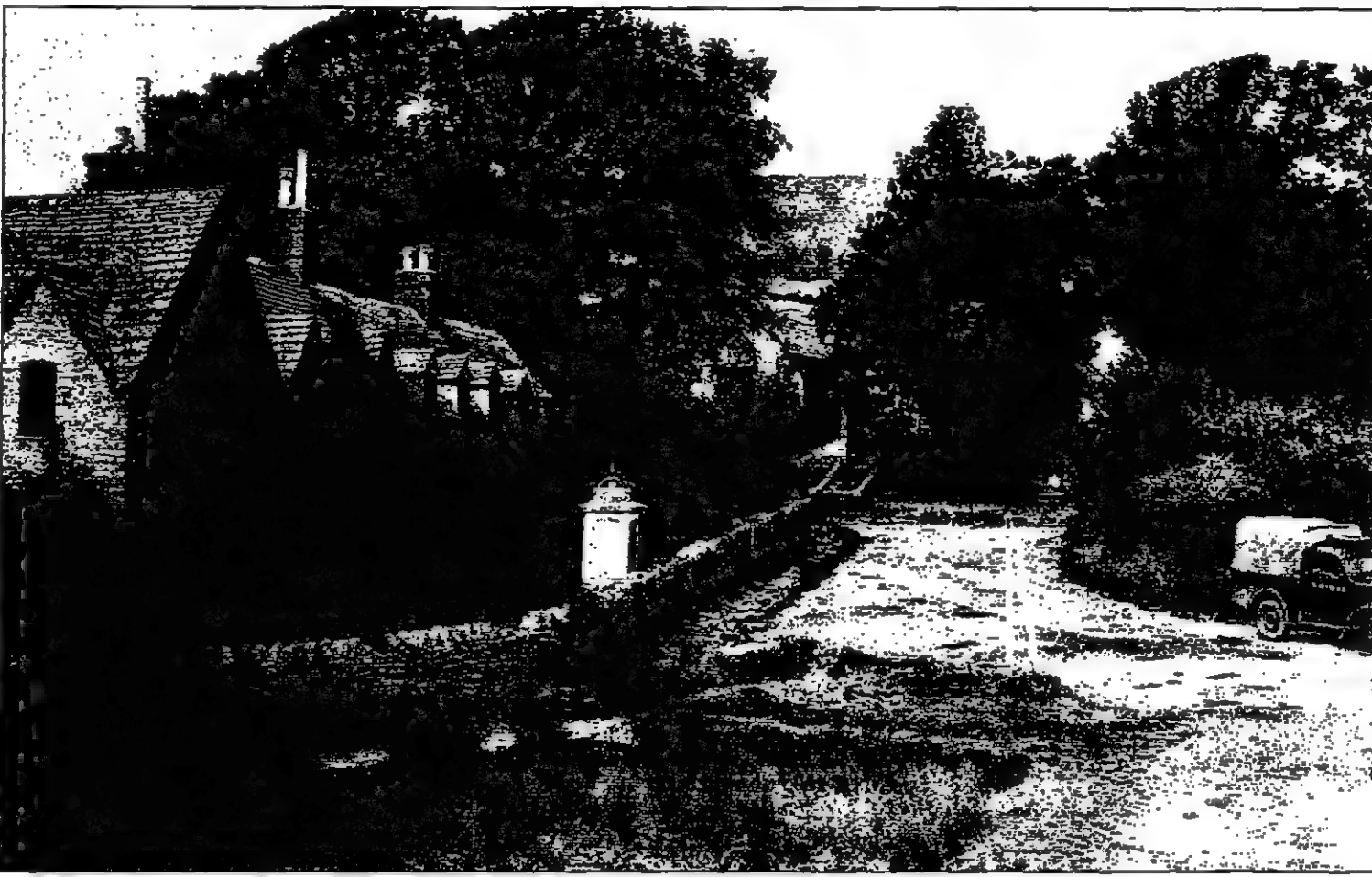
What happened to Tyneham, mentioned in the Domesday Book in 1086, is well known. A week before Christmas in 1943, it was seized by the army under Churchill's orders to enable tanks and other armoured vehicles preparing for the Normandy landings to hunt their shells with safety against the far side of the northern escarpment. Local thieves moved in within days of the evacuation to strip the church and the manor house (a Tudor gem begun in 1567) of their roof-leading.

It was supposed to have been handed back at the end of hostilities, but it never was. The official reason the Army hangs on to the deserted village, as that is still called the surrounding area as a firing range. Beyond that, and, one suspects, of greater importance is the fact that it likes the place, and has grown used to controlling it. The Army has removed the roofs entirely from the various cottages in the village (though repairing the church), and demolished the manor house in the late Eighties.

Campaigns to "save" Tyneham have come and gone over the years. Every generation, it seems, since 1943 has fallen in love with its sad story. A book — *The Village That Died For England* by Patrick Wright, to be published in the spring by Cape — lists these various efforts, and sees in them a metaphor for developments in postwar social consciousness. But Wright, a habitué clearly devoted to the place, comes to the conclusion that the status quo is as good a solution as any.

He is probably right to reject a revolutionary approach. English rural life is replete with examples of enforced "progress", and Tyneham, though kept unnaturally standing to attention by its military command, is a welcome example of a landscape in something approaching its natural condition. It used to be that the villagers themselves, dispossessed, in defence of hearth and home, were actively consulted about what should be done, but nearly all are dead now, or past caring. Those who get involved in the caring Nineties are mainly environmental activists even more appalled by the use to which the military puts this glorious corner of Wessex than they are by modern farming methods.

The activists would like to see Tyneham turned into a kind of organic theme park, in which neither army boots nor fertiliser would have a place. Others, no less robust, hope to see it turned back to the plough, the



Top, children playing in Tyneham at the turn of the century. Above, the scene in 1949, with the lane overgrown and the cottages boarded up

drill and the combine harvester and reintegrated in a haze of chemical dust with the rest of rural Dorset.

Rather more, however, including the bulk of local people living nearby, are happy with things as they are. The military have been an important part of the economy of the surrounding Isle of Purbeck for generations. Many Americans were stationed here in the lead-up to D-Day, and British armoured forces, with infantry attachments, have been part of the scene ever since. If the Army were to pull out of Lulworth camp, west of Tyneham, the local economy would be hard hit, with the loss of many civilian jobs and purchasing power dropping like a stone.

A prolonged moratorium would have to be enforced during which a thorough search for unexploded shells and other military detritus would be conducted by experts. Buyers would then have to be found

for the land, willing to spend a lifetime reclaiming the wilderness for agriculture and tourism.

The victims, unless the National Trust could be persuaded to take on the job (which is highly unlikely, given the capital cost), would be the wildlife and flora which have flourished undisturbed for more than 50 years, and a scattering of local farmers permitted grazing rights for their cattle and sheep. The beneficiaries, albeit long-term, would be those ready to destroy the existing tranquillity and render the land commercially viable.

Major-General Mark Bond, a former ADC to Viscount Montgomery of Alamein, was the last of his line to live in the manor house and remains "angry and disgusted" by the destruction of his childhood home. Even so, as an Army man himself, he sees no

alternative to a continuing military stewardship.

"It's not up to anyone except the Ministry of Defence. While they feel there is still a military use for the valley, the question of change doesn't arise. It's a long story, but one can't feel indignant for 50 years."

Major-General Bond remembers the village — which his family had owned for generations — as "an extraordinarily primitive place", without running water or electricity. He cannot believe many people would be prepared to make the necessary sacrifices over 25 years to make it worth living in today.

In the preserved, 19th-century schoolroom, built by one of the Major-General's ancestors, a message on the blackboard records, without apparent irony, the legend that "a flower is happiest in its own home". This is reference by Dorset County Council's Countryside Ser-

vice to the profusion of wildflowers in the valley, but could equally have been applied to the villagers of Tyneham ejected in their country's cause in 1943.

"Please treat the church and houses with care," ran the poignant message pinned to the front door of the church on the fateful day. "We have given up our homes, where many of us have lived for generations, to help to win the war and keep men free. We shall return one day and thank you for treating the village kindly."

They were conned, of course. But now that their betrayal is fading into history, good can be seen to have come from the Army's occupation. Tyneham lives on in the imagination of the thousands who visit it each year as a unique example of an England undisturbed and untransformed by technology. Plants and animals are not the only ones with cause to be grateful.

Will Archer join the immortals?

In an age of literary dross, the case for creating books that last

As the new year dawns and the common reader finds herself surrounded by the detritus of books-of-the-year choices, there is nothing more soothing to a hangover than to creep upstairs and lie supine, reading something rather old, in red cloth covers. Could be *Jane Eyre*, could be Dorothy L. Sayers, could be Tolstoy, could be Biggles. This year, however, my ritual retirement was marred by a piece of sinister news. Books, they say, are rotting.

The whistle was blown by a bookseller writing under the pseudonym of Mark Chivers. He says what many know: that most modern British hardbacks are printed on acid paper, glued not sewn, and shoddily bound.

After only a decade they become brittle and yellow and disintegrate. So much for our children's and grandchildren's chance of riffling happily, as we do, in the trays of second-hand bookshops for some forgotten but engaging personality. So much for Milton, and a good book.

being the precious lifeblood of a master spirit, embalmed and treasured up to a life beyond life. The worms now get the books even before they get the authors.

It has to be admitted that a lot of them deserve it. It has taken a while for our generation, brought up to think that hard covers equal immortality, to admit that hard covers now mean nothing. When a words had to be set in lumps of metal, publishers chose carefully. Now, electronic economics have brought free-wheeling democracy for the first time since Caxton the expression "give it a whirl" rings through the halls of publishing. A quick short run is cheap; if it fails, pulp it.

The result is that among the admirable biographies, perennially entertaining novels and thoughtful essays of our time, some astonishing dross is published, looking just as permanent. Some novels, especially with piquant authorial names, are so ill-written and clumsily plotted, so devoid of wisdom or grace, that no publisher of 20 years ago would have looked at them.

But now, they say, even the good ones rot: libraries a century hence will be deprived of our generation's books. So what's to do? The clue was provided by *The Times* report that a few authors — such as Jeffrey Archer — insist on acid-free paper, and by A.S. Byatt's irritable, knee-jerk snobish response that: "There are books that need to be

preserved and his are not among them."

So here is what we must do: and the prospect had me springing from underneath the pile of old favourites on the bed. We must set up a committee which, each New Year's Day, shall decide on a "Library List" of 100 titles published in Britain in the preceding twelve months. The list shall be reprinted and bound to last forever, funded by public subscription. And here is the fun: who are you going to put on the committee? For, after the dozen obvious contenders — the top biographies and histories, the Whitbread book, Alan Bennett — things would get very sticky indeed.

Imagine the scene: grave and reverend seignors from the leader pages explaining why Sir Peter De La



LIBBY PURVES

Billière's ghosted memoirs simply must be in: aggressive terrorists from the pop-culture reviews snarling that Jilly Cooper says more about our age than bleeding Martin Amis; Sunday literary editors log-rolling for their friends' girlfriends; the

Romantic Novelists Association rep lashing out with her umbrella at the *Friends of Will Self*; someone bravely battling for Bernard Cornwell's sea stories, on the grounds that Nevil Shute's adventures have lasted beautifully and are finding a new generation of fans, which is more than can be said for some of the heavier literati of his era; a sharp little spat, perhaps, over whether if you couldn't see Stephen Fry on the telly any more you would really want to read all that disgusting stuff about sex with horses.

Someone would be bound to point out that when Angus Wilson died all his books were out of print, but that we now see how good he was, and suppose they had rotted? While the Common Readers panel would act as a muttering chorus, saying that if they still like Dorothy Sayers and Ngaio Marsh, why the hell should their grandchildren get the chance to read Jeffrey Archer?

The debate could run for a full week, with meals brought in and nobody released until a list was agreed. Come to think of it, you could televise the whole thing to pay the costs of the reprint. Maybe the panelists — Lord Rees-Mogg, Fay Weldon, Alan Yentob and the rest — could settle the final few places with a *Gladiators*-type fight with giant foam pens, balanced over a tubful of shredded remainder copies. Why not?

Julia Llewellyn Smith finds out why growing numbers of priests are seeking job protection

God's own union

WHEN the Rev Anthony Bell wanted to join a union he had problems filling out the application form. "It asked for the name of my employer. Well, it's very hard to enter God into a computer, so I put Church of England, Millbank, London." He ended up a member of the southwest London branch of the Manufacturing, Science

and Finance union (MSF), 250 miles south of his parish in Co Durham.

Why was Mr Bell joining a union in the first place? Vicars ought to be rosy-cheeked, unworldly ditherers. The thought of priests picketing the bishop's midnight Mass or refusing to perform baptisms until their stipends are raised is ludicrous.

Nonetheless, since September when the MSF (the aptly-dubbed "white-collar" union) opened a clerical section, 300 vicars have paid their subs and membership is increasing steadily.

CLERGY are looking for shelter from a Church in chaos. Their fears are prompted by proposals to abolish the ancient person's freehold and its guarantee of job security and free housing until the age of 70, and to replace it with fixed-term contracts, which can be ended at a bishop's whim.

Church finances are being dramatically reorganised after commissioners lost millions on the property market; parishes are being amalgamated and posts are disappearing, in all of this the clergy, who are officially self-employed, have no legal safety net. Many of the MSF's recruits

are those opposed to the ordination of women, who fear that the bishops may try to weed them out as potential troublemakers. They are campaigning for "fair hearing" for clergy sacked on conscientious grounds, such as the Rev Anthony Freeman, a Sussex vicar who was dismissed earlier this year when he announced he did not believe in the traditional concept of God. "The union is independent of the theological rigours," says Mr Bell. "They are looking at how one finds justice in disputed situations: looking after a member whether right or wrong. God loves a sinner whether he's right or wrong."

Kit Chalcraft, a Norfolk vicar, was recently dismissed when he announced his intention of marrying for the third time. Susanne Hall, Mr Chalcraft's fiancée, is outraged by his treatment and by the lack of after-care available to sacked clergy. "There's nothing, no redundancy, no hearings, a pathetic pension," she says. "No one is coming round to ask 'Well, what will you do with your life now?'"

According to Ms Hall, union membership for clergy should be "virtually compulsory". A dedicated priest is really not a very material



Tony Bell, worker priest

man," she says. "He may be frightfully conversant with the ideals of Antioch, but if he loses his job he's like a man coming out of an enclosed order and not knowing how to buy a bus ticket. Many priests are very shy and simply cannot fight these battles for themselves."

Mr Bell agrees that many priests need the security of a union, as a base for negotiation. "Recently a woman priest came to me very upset," he says. "She had just received a contract from the archdeacon stipulating very unreasonable working hours. He changed his mind when he heard she

had joined the union and they negotiated a much more satisfactory deal."

However, Mr Bell's reasons for joining the union are more philosophical than practical. At the age of 47, Mr Bell spends half his time as the parish priest of Byers Green and half as an industrial chaplain. Ordained in 1973, he was a curate in Peterlee when he learned about the worker priest system, a scheme inspired by French priests, who, during the wartime occupation, infiltrated Nazi labour camps by working in disguise alongside their compatriots.

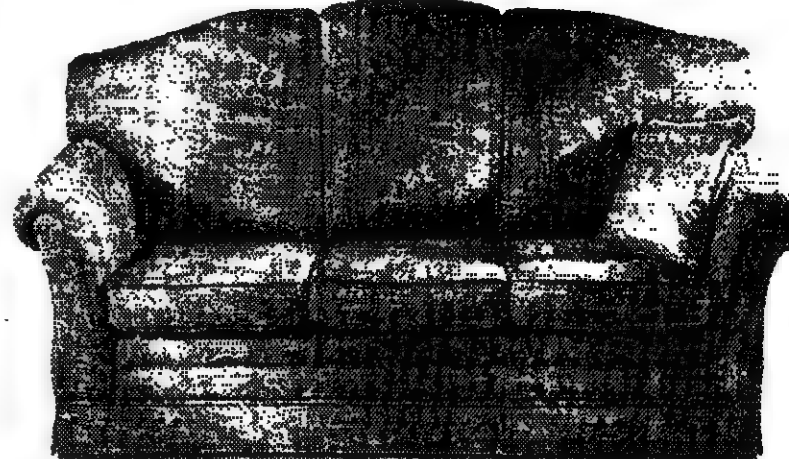
THE concept appealed to Mr Bell. "It is a statement of what the Gospel is about. If God can come to us in the form of Jesus Christ to get his hands dirty, then we can do the same. The Church was traditionally identified with the nobility in this country; it was out of touch with the workers."

To Mr Bell, trade unionism is fundamental to a Christian society. "Unions are championing what the Church is about: the deprived, the rejected, the people who have been given no stake in our society."

Self-protection is not, however, Mr Bell's main concern. "The Church needs to be restructured," he says. "Abolition of the freehold is a good thing. I don't suppose the clergy should feel any more secure than anyone else."

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CONVINT PARLER

Matthew Parris



■ History may remember the colony's last imperial Governor for a quite unexpected reason

Hong Kong

King Alfred did not expect to be renowned only for burning the cakes, and Catherine the Great would be depressed to learn that her reputation rests on her nymphomania. History is prone to a dismaying *l'esprit de l'escalier*, and few of us are remembered as we would choose; we are lucky to be remembered at all. Popular recollection has an impetuous way with the facts.

I bring impetuous tidings from Hong Kong. The last Governor may be engaged with the destinies of millions, yet he and his wife may find lasting fame for their connection with the two tiny personalities who have become even more famous in the Orient than Chris and Lavender Patten. I speak of their dogs, "Whisky" and "Soda".

Whisky is the boy. Soda is his lady friend, and both are Norfolk terriers. Their relationship, though warm, is probably platonic, for reasons we shall pass over to spare Whisky's dignity. Both are the colour of ginger nut biscuits, with twinkling little black eyes like wet currants.

Both are adorable. Both nip. The canine duo first became famous not long after the Pattens' arrival in Hong Kong, when Whisky was lost. The story is too well-known to need repeating. Days passed and media interest grew. All Hong Kong, it seemed, and soon all Britain too, wondered about the fate of a little dog lost in a place where there are snakes. Finally Whisky gave himself up. The world wept with joy. It may be that Whisky's absence was a shrewd bid for media attention.

And boy did he get it! No story from Hong Kong has won such headlines in Britain. It must be the most famous doggy AWOL in history. All week the news was full of it: "background" pieces, "colour" pieces, opinion pieces — and even a "racist slur row" when commentators suggested that English terrier might have fallen victim to the Chinese chopstick.

It is still the incident people in Britain remember most about Mr Patten's governorship. When, some days later, Lavender Patten arrived in Indonesia, this was the first topic raised with her on leaving the aircraft. The dogs' claim on history seemed assured.

But Whisky and Soda have decided to consolidate. A dog can really do only one of three things to be famous: get lost, rescue someone or bite. Having explored the first option, and being too small to attempt the second, Whisky and Soda seized on the third. They bit people. Each bit one person, in separate incidents.

This, too, has become famous in Hong Kong. Whisky had to be detained in kennels for a month — a sort of canine jail. Both his incarceration and his release featured in local news and gossip. Mike Tyson could not hope for more.

Ten days ago, when I arrived here, an entire leading article in the *South China Morning Post* was devoted to the question of whether or not the dogs should be exempt from new muzzling laws. The Editor concluded with the thought that, as with their master, a friendly manner could disguise a readiness to bite.

Between Christmas and the new year, your columnist was out walking with Mr and Mrs Patten, guests and dogs. It was a long and beautiful walk, down paths in the New Territories. Chinese families were out for the day like us, and we passed many on the narrow path. Chris Patten delivering his trademark "Hi, how are you?" and Whisky delivering his trademark "yip".

Everyone seemed to recognise the Governor. We encountered a family coming the other way. "Hi-how-are-you?" (yip) — a friendly grin from the Governor. There were squeals and smiles and much excited chatter in Cantonese. When the family were out of earshot Mr Patten turned to his Chinese bodyguard: "What were they saying, Simon?"

"They were saying 'Oh look! There are those dogs! We've read about them. They have bitten people. It's written in the newspaper.'" Mr Patten smiled ruefully.

Ten minutes later a larger Chinese party passed us. "Hi-how-are-you?" (yip yip). The Governor beamed graciously, as Governors do. Everyone in the Chinese party was jabbering away vigorously in Cantonese. "Well, Simon?"

"Sir, they were saying 'Oh look! It's those dogs which attack people. One was even in prison. Don't walk too close to them. Dogs know if you're afraid!'"

In 900 days, Chris Patten will be coming home, a grateful nation's recognition of a job well done. Some chance! Yet there is one slim hope for the Patten place in history: returning with him will be (God willing) two small Norfolk terriers. Six months' quarantine! Poor things! What better moment, in tribute to the Pattens, to review our silly and unscientific laws on rabies control?

It may then be that, after the Yuan, Ming and Qing dynasties on mainland China will come the Whisky and Soda dynasty (1992-97) on Hong Kong; but that in the annals of British agricultural regulation, history will call the reform of our rabies law the "Chris Patten amendment". For which of us can choose the point at which we brush with history?

It wasn't the Governor and his wife that they were discussing, but the dogs

Labour's proposals for Scotland and Wales may be popular, but they are half-measures, full of anomalies

Into the quagmire of devolution

It is 20 years since Scottish devolution was last an immediate issue. Tony Blair was not then even a Member of Parliament. If he had been, he would be more aware of the explosive nature of Scottish constitutional reform. In the mid 1970s, I took a small group of *Times* journalists to Scotland to talk to various groups about the issues of devolution and independence. Three conclusions became clear, whether we were talking to businessmen or politicians, to committed Scottish Nationalists, to supporters of the Labour Party or even to Tories.

The first was that all Scottish people regard Scotland as a separate nation, very different from England. Even those who want to preserve the present form of the United Kingdom, a minority then as now, belong to this Scottish nation and are proud of it. The second conclusion was that the issue of devolution or independence might be postponed — as was in fact to happen — but would not disappear. The long-term trend was steadily growing support for greater independence for Scotland.

These conclusions fit well with Labour policy and partly account for the continued weakness of Conservative support in Scotland. The Conservatives have become the English party in Scotland, and that must always be a minority position.

The third point, however, tells the other way. Scottish devolution has always been a very complicated and contentious issue. Any government that embarks on a devolution policy is, as John Major has said, entering dangerous waters. Roy Jenkins is just completing his *Life of Gladstone*, which will be one of the major publishing events of 1995. Tony Blair may well find that a Scottish Home Rule Bill is as hard to handle as Gladstone found Irish Home Rule.

The Labour Party is committed, subject to having a sufficient majority, to enacting three constitutional

Bills in the first year of a new parliament. One would establish a parliament for Scotland, with taxing powers, the second would establish an assembly for Wales, without taxing powers, the third would deprive hereditary peers of the right to vote in the House of Lords.

Even this House of Lords proposal, which seems quite simple, is in practice difficult. It implies that the individual member's right to vote in Parliament is a matter for statute, not for the individual privilege of each House separately. That itself is an issue of law which could go to our highest court — the House of Lords.

The proposed Bill would create a wholly nominated chamber of life peers, which many people would regard as an objectionable increase in patronage. But even if these objections were overcome, abolition of the voting rights of hereditary peers would take up many days of parliamentary time. There is no guillotine in the House of Lords, and diarch hereditary peers, some of them Scottish, or perhaps even life peers, could put down numerous amendments. Such a dispute would make it harder to carry Scottish Home Rule through the House of Lords in the same year.

The Welsh assembly will have lesser powers than this Scottish Parliament. That is an insult to Welsh Nationalism. Left to themselves, Welsh might be content with such an assembly, but they will not be happy with less independence than Scotland. When I chaired the Arts

Council in the 1980s, that body was still the Arts Council of Great Britain, and Scotland and Wales were both funded through it, though on a devolved basis. The Welsh members always insisted that Wales must be treated at least as well as Scotland.

There are also jealousies in the English regions. The North of England already resents the advantages Scotland enjoys in regional government. Labour proposes to create English regional assemblies, but these will come later in the parliament and

money? Will the Scottish parliament be elected on a proportional system? There are interesting juridical points. Will the Scottish Parliament be the successor to the old pre-Union Scottish Parliament under Scottish law? If so, it will become the sovereign parliament in Scotland; would such a sovereign parliament continue to accept the Westminster House of Lords as the ultimate court of appeal on Scottish law?

There are controversial fiscal issues too. Scotland will presumably expect to tax North Sea oil. Is Westminster prepared to forgo North Sea revenues, or will there be double taxation? Scottish territorial waters would have to be determined. Under existing international law, territorial boundaries extend along their existing lines to define boundaries in the sea. That formula favours England in terms of North Sea oil. A lot of "Scottish" oil might prove to be "English" after all.

Scotland at present is over-represented in the Westminster Parliament — the average Scottish electorate is considerably smaller than the English. Will this be corrected? And will the number of Scottish seats at Westminster be reduced, thereby probably reducing any Labour majority? Scottish members vote on legislation which only affects England and Wales; if there is a new Scottish parliament, English and Welsh members may not be able to vote on similar Scottish laws, perhaps including such matters as education or health. Scotland appears to be subsidised by English taxpayers. Will this continue? There are many possible ways of calculating taxation and expenditure; there could well be heated disputes about the size or even the existence of this subsidy.

These are only a few of the questions which will arise. Even if one accepts that Scotland wants devolution, they have no obvious right answers, let alone agreed ones.

In the 1970s, I came back from Scotland with the conviction that there were only three possible constitutional forms which could work. Unfortunately, the Labour Party has not opted for any of them. A unitary system has worked reasonably well for nearly 300 years. It may now be running out of Scottish voters want to change it. A fully federal system might work, in which every part of the United Kingdom had dual representation, in its own regional parliament and at Westminster, with the same powers for Scotland, Wales and the English regions. Such constitutional work satisfactorily in Germany, the United States and elsewhere. Or Scotland could be fully independent, and become a separate member of the European Union.

The Labour Party scheme would be none of these. It is a quasi-federation in which Scotland would have privileges denied to Wales and the English regions, and giving obvious grounds for conflict between the Scottish and Westminster parliaments. That is unfair, and would be unstable.

These disputes would arise on serious matters and would be likely to become heated. In England they would help to elect nationalist Tories; in Scotland they would help to elect Scottish Nationalists. Like many halfway-houses, Labour's devolution proposals would only be a temporary stopping-place and would probably prove to be a posting-inn on the road to full Scottish independence.

William Rees-Mogg

will have fewer powers than the proposed Scottish parliament.

If there is to be a Scottish parliament, what powers will it have? If it can tax, what taxes will it be allowed to impose? Will it be elected at the same time as the British parliament, or will the Scottish parliamentary elections become a focus for protest, as European and local government elections are now? Could there be a Labour majority at Westminster, committed to controlled devolution, but a Scottish Nationalist majority in the Scottish parliament, committed to independence? Will the two parliaments fight each other for power and

Power is another matter

Peter Riddell says Labour might make a better government — but not yet

Tony Blair says Labour is ready to govern and is anxious to govern. Two-thirds of the public agree. They are wrong. Labour may form the next Government, but the party is nowhere near prepared for office.

There is a big difference between campaigning and governing. Labour faces the mirror-image of the Tories' problem. Just as most ministers cannot envisage being out of office, many Opposition spokesmen cannot imagine what is involved in running a Whitehall department. This is hardly surprising since so few have been ministers, or were even MPs when Labour was last in power. But the price is a negative culture of opposition, condemning all government actions.

At a time when the Tories are so unpopular, an anti-Government approach is appealing. It is possible to devise a winning campaign around charges of broken promises and the insecurities of ordinary families. Bill Clinton did so in 1992. But many of his promises were mutually contradictory. It proved to be impossible to reduce the Budget deficit, provide a short-term economic stimulus, encourage long-term investment in training and infrastructure and cut taxes for working families all at the same time. Mr Clinton's inability as President to reconcile these pledges, even though the US economy was strong, explains why the Democrats suffered so thorough a rout in the mid-term elections eight weeks ago.

Mr Blair is well aware of these traps. As he said in his *First Interview* for the BBC before Christmas, the lesson of the American elections is that Labour — or "new Labour" as he always calls the party



— has to be clear about its priorities: "what we're going to do, what we're going to achieve and what we deliver those specific objectives. You don't run on one basis and govern on another."

Mr Blair has deliberately played down Labour's electoral successes — arguing that while the public is disaffected from the Tories and wants change, it needs to be sure of Labour. That is a sensible approach. Despite four election defeats, many in the party are prone to complacency. But Mr Blair has to define these priorities and to show that his party accepts them.

Much of the effort of the past decade, under Neil Kinnock and John Smith, has been directed at removing past handicaps: ditching unilateralism and opposition to the European Union, council house sales and strike ballots. But that process is

a necessary rather than a sufficient condition for success in office.

The argument over Clause Four of the party constitution is not a diversion. It is a symbol of the party's willingness to show that it has changed, strengthening what Mr Blair describes as "the bond of trust" with the public. As Jack Straw has argued, the familiar wording was proposed in 1918 by the modernisers of the day in order to appeal to middle-class voters. Its language, about "the common ownership of the means of production, distribution and exchange", has always been meaningless in practice and looks absurdly out-of-date now. There is no commitment to social justice, eradicating poverty or equality of opportunity. There are indeed tricky issues over public ownership, but it should not be too hard to produce a new formula. The danger is that a new clause will be woolly.

Mr Blair has to overcome immense conservatism and suspicion, as shown by the narrow decision in favour of the existing Clause Four at the Labour conference and votes since then for its retention by many local parties. Mr Blair is respected rather than liked by many Labour MPs and activists. He is not "one of them" by background, unlike his recent predecessors. He also has uneasy relations with the unions. A special conference on Clause Four is being held in late April, just before the main union conferences, to avoid the risk that they will vote against changes. With the unions now so powerless in relation to both the Government and

employers, candidates for the general-secretariats and main posts in the big unions (several of whom will be elected over the next year) are fighting about Labour Party issues. Many challengers are likely to take left-wing positions.

The doubts about Mr Blair have been fuelled by his and his wife's decision to send one of their children to a grant-maintained school. This is a reasonable personal decision for anyone not brought up in a narrow culture of political activism, but it is offensive to many activists, especially teachers. Labour remains uncertain about how much independence should be retained by grant-maintained schools, or by hospital trusts.

Labour has become so used to opposing that it has not had to define credible policies of its own. On Europe, the party has had an easy ride because of Tory splits, and has not had to define what its generally "pro" instincts mean with regard, for instance, to the powers of EU institutions. On the economy, Gordon Brown has achieved much as Shadow Chancellor. The Government was forced to abandon the second stage of the VAT increase on domestic fuel, while Labour is consistently and clearly rated ahead of the Tories on issues of economic competence. Mr Brown's campaign against fairness in taxation and his criticism of abuses in the tax system and by monopoly utilities have struck home. But Labour's alternative remains vague. There are interesting ideas, about helping the unemployed back into work, about encouraging training, a university for industry and the like. But on macro-economic policy — levels of spending and borrowing and, in particular, a European single currency — the qualifications are more apparent than the commitments. The party's economic policy commission is well under way, but nothing controversial will be said until after the Clause Four conference.

For all the shouts of "Tories out", the Labour leadership is fortunate that an election during the coming year is highly unlikely. The party needs all the time available to prepare for office.

Suitable man

AS JOHN MAJOR fervently tries to thrust his *annus horribilis* behind him, he is at least marching over more smartly into 1995. For, slowly and quietly, he has undergone something of a make-over. The suits are now noticeably better fitting: the shirts and ties are brighter.

Norma failed to cajole him into taking more of an interest in his appearance. So did Sarah, Hogg, Gus O'Donnell and his successor, Chris Meyer.

The one to succeed where all others failed, I gather, was Arabella Warburton. Major's very Sloane diary secretary. Warburton worked for many years at the Foreign Office for Lord Howe, who also blossomed visibly under her critical eye.

When she heard moans from fellow aides at No 10 about how the Prime Minister had scorned their sartorial suggestions, Warburton decided to proffer occasional snippets of advice. More distinctive ties and shirts, usually in pastel colours, from Aquascutum (Baroness Thatcher's favourite outfit) now grace the prime minister's

torso. And in recent months, a couple of smarter suits have appeared at "big" occasions, including a rather rufy grey number — a colour Major used to eschew for fear of exacerbating his "grey" image.

"It's not been dramatic enough for anyone to sit up and take much notice of so far," admits an aide. "But we all think he's looking a lot smarter lately."

NOW FOR A ROUND UP OF 1994



● Rice-wine hangovers can be soothed for the first time this year with the reassuring "pink plink fizz" of our best-known stomach-settler. Alka Seltzer has just been launched in Japan.

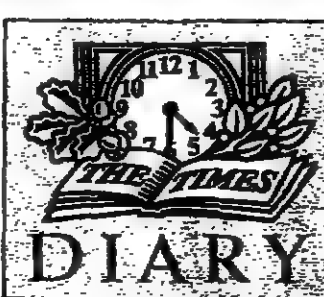
Give away

NO, ELSIE BUSHEN, who left £2 million to help cut the national debt, is not related to our Chancellor Kenneth Clarke. I am assured. But the Treasury was once linked to a similar offer. An anonymous letter in *The Times* in 1919 signed F.S.T. exhorted others to copy his, in effect, handing a large part of their wealth to the Exchequer. F.S.T. said he intended to donate £150,000 of his £580,000 dowry to the nation.

Years later, F.S.T. was identified as the then Financial Secretary to the Treasury, Stanley Baldwin.

Hour side

FRANCE appears to be getting nearer. Anglophiles on Eurostar's supertrain report that conductors advise them to alter their watches to French time as soon as they enter the Folkestone end of the Channel. On their return, they are not told to



reset them until the train surfaces into the Kent countryside.

To aggravate historic Anglo-French hostilities further, I note that one of the new bars at the Waterloo Channel terminal has been named Bonaparte.

Zut alors!

Gang stir

LORD BOOTHBY's handwritten letter to the then Home Secretary, 15-year Brooke, released under the 30-year rule, is a classic of its kind. In the six pages, the peer vigorously dismisses rumours of a homosexual affair with the underworld gangster Ronnie Kray.

But the letter also reveals that one aspect which really made the ex-Tory minister shudder with hor-

ror was the allegation in a newspaper about his and Kray's "relationships" with chaps in dog-collars. In outraged tones, Boothby told Brooke that the *Sunday Mirror* had referred to "the association between the peer, East End gangsters, and (for Heaven's sake) a number of ceryngmen".

A record

UNUSUALLY coy about affairs of the heart yesterday, Alan Clark coolly informed Sue Lawley on *Desert Island Discs*: "I am reluctant to explain my views on love to a stranger. Sue."

But not a total stranger. In his *Diaries*, Clark passes his verdict on Lawley after an unhappy appearance on *Question Time*. After a series of catty exchanges, he describes her as "bitchlike". "She, an attractive woman, spotted at once that I have lecherous tendencies but did not actually fancy her."

Hats off

THEY WILL be raising their hats rather more often than used to at James Locke & Co, the Piccadilly hatter frequented by the royal family. For the first time since the com-



Sylvia Fletcher: adding lustre to Locke's stock

pany was founded in 1676, there is a milliner on the premises to look after female clientele.

Sylvia Fletcher took up residence at James Locke's just before Christmas and has already started a fashion department. "Some of the chaps here can't believe anyone would wear the catwalk creations," she explains breezily. "It's a bit of a bastion here isn't it?"

But I've wriggled my way in. Nevertheless, one or two regulars have been stopped in their stride by the cbb and flow of fashionable young girls. I am reassured, though, that trade in the gents' section is booming alongside the ladies' department.

P.F.I.S



UTOPIA INVENTED

June 1945: the United Nations is born

The United Nations Charter, signed by 50 governments in San Francisco on June 26, 1945, was the blueprint for what was rightly seen as a great imaginative enterprise. The 78 tons of paper that went into the two months of final amendments prefigured the UN's subsequent reputation as a papermill; but the resulting document retains, 50 years on, a considerable moral resonance.

Such doubts as there were about the new organisation centred, inevitably, on the prospects of preventing future wars. Soviet forces, which had been mopping up Central Europe like a sponge, were surrounding Berlin in April as the conference opened. The Charter's security clauses, deliberately ultra-conservative, were aimed at locking Moscow into a rule-based international regime. For Britain and America, the powers which drew up the Dumbarton Oaks draft presented at San Francisco, the priority was to create a watertight system of collective security. In the real world, they believed, this could only be based on the combined military power of the most powerful wartime Allies — Roosevelt's "global policemen", who were given veto power and permanent seats on the new UN Security Council.

The interim years had left few illusions about the readiness of governments to have their feet held to the fire when called on to resist aggression. The Charter left as little as possible to chance. It empowered the Council to determine threats to international peace, and to require governments to make forces available. Even so — prudently, in the event — it also hedged the collective security bet: Article 51 allowed for traditional self-defence, should the UN fail. Hailing the result, *The Times* underlined the need for "a sane and healthy caution" about the UN's capacity to "repair the failure of its predecessor", the League of Nations. We attached most weight to the certainty that the US would join the UN, breaking with its tradition of avoiding "entangling alliances".

But in other respects, what distinguished the Charter was an optimistic secular humanism, egalitarianism, and confidence in

common purposes. "We the peoples", the famous words with which its preamble opens, underscored the hope that the UN would be far more than "a method for carrying on relations between states" — Sir Alfred Zimmern's somewhat dry summary of the League's functions. In its emphasis on bringing states together, as well as keeping them apart, the Charter broke new ground.

The experiences of the Great Depression, total war and the Holocaust had created a profound shift in the demands made of international organisations. The UN was to "win the peace" by promoting President Roosevelt's "Four Freedoms" — freedom from

fear and from want but also freedom of speech and religion. The Charter was a ringing affirmation of the inalienability of individual human rights and a statement of mutual human solidarity. There was a novel determination to call states to account not only for their behaviour towards other states, but for the treatment of their own people. It was also a document rich in contradictions, both political and structural. For all the Charter's emphasis on citizens' rights, the UN was and is a club of governments, fiercely resistant to investigations into their domestic misconduct. The Charter accentuated the role of the state, on the eve of revolutions in technology and communications which were to limit the effective powers of governments. As a result, too many UN agencies, created to promote the management of change, lumbered in its wake. Its machinery became slowfooted, unaccountable and strategically adrift. Fifty years on, the Charter retains its resonance, and the end of the Cold War has created new needs and opportunities for institutions with global reach. But it has also robbed the UN of its excuse for ineffectiveness. There are many more clubs than there were in 1945; governments will turn to those that work best. Competition is healthy: the UN's next 50 years will depend on its readiness to adapt. The reinvention of government, a prominent feature of the past decade, needs to find its global dimension.

DIAL 999 FOR REFORM

Something is rotten in the state of London's ambulances

The official report, due later this month, of the delays and incompetence in the London Ambulance Service that led last July to the death from kidney failure of an 11-year-old girl — Nasima Begum — will provoke widespread outrage. Ambulances are the first vital link to the medical services that save lives; society has a right to expect that they will respond swiftly and effectively when lives are in the balance. Yet all too often, and with occasionally tragic consequences, vital minutes are lost because of bureaucracy and union demarcation disputes. Virginia Bottomley, the Health Secretary, has rightly decided to use this case as a catalyst for sweeping reforms.

Few people blame the ambulance crews themselves, and nor does the report into the Begum case. The dedicated men and women of the emergency services save thousands of lives each year by their initiative, skill and quiet efficiency at critical moments. What is unacceptable, however, is the framework in which they operate, especially in London. The overwhelming complaint is that ambulances fail to arrive on time. A delay of over half an hour is not uncommon; and some stations even refuse now to dispatch ambulances unless they are called out by a doctor. The capital has a far worse record than provincial ambulance services, with only just over half the number of calls answered within the recommended time of 14 minutes. It almost two years since Mrs Bottomley promised a management shake-up after the disastrous breakdown in the new computer system; but public confidence has not yet been restored.

London ambulance authorities maintain

that the capital faces particular obstacles: serious traffic congestion, a number of malicious hoax calls, a high turnover of ancillary staff and a confusing variety of hospitals with differing jurisdictions and areas of expertise. The authorities also claim that the service has been starved of money and investment and that manning levels have been allowed to deteriorate. Some of this is true; and the government is to spend an extra £15 million on 100 new ambulances and 240 additional paramedics for London this year.

What the London Ambulance Service has not admitted, however, is that its greatest failing is poor management. Too often responsibility is shirked at all levels of the service — and this includes hospitals who refuse to accept patients, forcing ambulance crews to ferry the critically ill from place to place while they haggle over the availability of beds. A poisoned political atmosphere, envenomed by strikes and bad blood between unions and management, has made reform of the service unnecessarily confrontational. Attempts to force an efficient use of resources are seen, wrongly, as evidence of the piecemeal dismantling of the National Health Service.

The public has a right to a first-class ambulance service, even in cities as large and demanding as London. Armed with official evidence of a defective system of management, Mrs Bottomley must use the tragedy of Nasima Begum's death to enforce better working practices, the full exploitation of reserves and voluntary services such as the Red Cross, and an end to rule-bound inflexibility. Not another child or pensioner should die by unpardonable default.

EXIT ON QUEUE

The bylaw has gone but the line for the bus remains

It is worth trying for a moment, as George Orwell wrote in *The English People*, to put oneself in the position of a foreign eye-witness new to England. "Our imaginary observer would certainly be struck... by the lack of pushing and quarrelling, the willingness to form queues..." He would also be struck to learn — as even many Britons surely would — that the patient queues that have for years arranged themselves at bus stops might be the products not of some blood-instinct but of a mundane bylaw.

In 1938, it was decreed that the passengers for buses and trams must "wait in lines or queues in an orderly manner". Jostling, and other methods more suited to the rugby field, were forbidden on pain of a £2 fine. From the first day of 1995 however, for the first time in over half a century, this bylaw will no longer be in force. Bylaws, which constitute the colosseum of our legal system, are curiously prone to obsolescence; and the "queue bylaw" was no exception.

Foreigners react to our queues in one of two ways: they either scoff at them as proof of the Briton's docile nature. ("Like a sheep with a sheep's practical instinct," jeered Wagner), or to venerate them as evidence of his world's imitative grasp of civic arrange-

ment. We would tend to recommend the second view as the better, if only because it is impossible to accept that so fundamental a feature of the British character could have been set in place by the merest of bylaws.

The abolition of the transport bylaw of 1938 will, no doubt, entice out of the woodwork the usual revisionists: if Churchill is not thought sacrosanct, why should the queue be so? Yet the suggestion that the queue is but a line-come-lately should be resisted with the tenacity displayed by those tireless souls who wait daily for the 168 to Archway, or for the D9 to Canary Wharf. The British queue was born not of necessity but of good manners, manners which many would maintain are today under threat (although for reasons unrelated to the repeal of bylaws). How unlike the old Soviet queue it is, in this respect.

Lines in Moscow or Vladivostok were bred by need and fatalism. The Soviet Union's weary masses stood — both literally and as metaphors — as indictments of a failed system. The British queue, on the other hand, exudes a quiet satisfaction, the mellowness of polished routine, a belief in the world's certainties and — perhaps — a touching excess of faith in our system of public transport.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-762 5000

Confusion over redating of St Matthew's Gospel

From Dr Carsten Peter Thiede

Sir, While the controversy about the dating of the three papyrus fragments from Matthew's Gospel at Magdalen College, Oxford, may continue for some time to come, it is puzzling to find that Professor Graham Stanton should accuse *The Times* (letter, December 29) of having been "taken in" by me.

My paper makes it clear that the date of the Magdalen papyrus has not been seriously analysed since 1953, and that even then the date suggested by its first editor — the late second century — meant a shift of some 150 years. Soon after its discovery in 1901, the papyrologist Arthur Hunt had dated it to the third or even fourth century, merely because it is part of a codex, a form which, in those early days of papyrology, was presumed to be "late".

Simply put, methods and knowledge developed. By 1953, the late second century seemed to be a "safe" date. In the mid-60s, the great Herbert Hunger of Vienna taught us to sharpen our tools and reconsider the datings of classical papyri on the basis of improved comparative methods and a wider range of dated and datable papyri. More often than not, the result is a considerable redating to earlier periods. Thus, any attempt to reconsider the date of the Magdalen papyrus is a necessary exercise in the application of papyrology.

That papyrus, on its own, cannot answer questions of Gospel origins or authenticity, I am, however, astonished that Professor Stanton seems to think that my arguments in favour of a very early date of Matthew's Gospel "do not inspire confidence". British scholars such as John A. T. Robinson, Donald Guthrie, John Wenham, Bernard Orchard, R. C. Butler, and many others, have, for different reasons, argued in favour of dates prior to AD70 for the Matthew Gospel — some of them as early as the mid-40s.

Graham Stanton confuses matters by drawing the disputed and completely unrelated fragment from Mark's Gospel found in Cave 7 at Qumran into this debate. My own book on the subject — not translated,

as Stanton claims, but written in English — was based on papers published in specialist journals. What the Spanish papyrologist José O'Callaghan, the man who first identified the fragment in 1972, saw and suggested was indeed rejected by many New Testament critics.

However, a growing number of papyrologists, among them the honorary president of the International Papyrologists' Association, Professoressa Orsola Montevicchi, have, over the past few years, corroborated and substantiated the identification of the Qumran papyrus with a passage from Mark as "absolutely certain".

Yours faithfully,
CARSTEN PETER THIEDE
(Director),
Institut für Wissenschaftstheoretische
Grundlagenforschung,
Bunsenstrasse 16,
33098 Paderborn, Germany.
December 29.

From Dr Joseph Spooner

Sir, Like Professor Stanton, I too was somewhat surprised that *The Times* should accept Dr Carsten Thiede's arguments so uncritically. It is exceptionally difficult to date a papyrus on the evidence of the script alone. While the script in the fragments may look early to some eyes, some features of it may be found in hands of the third century: literary hands in papyrus change very slowly indeed.

In dating the fragment to the middle of the first century AD, Dr Thiede has simultaneously made another claim. The fragments are of a leaf of a codex (book), and the very earliest codices from Graeco-Roman Egypt date to the end of the second and beginning of the third century AD. A substantial proportion of the earliest examples are Christian texts, and logic places the Matthew fragments with these.

To give the fragments a date in the middle of the first century is to make them the earliest book fragments by 150 years — a massive claim.

Yours faithfully,
JOSEPH SPOONER,
12 Murray Road, Wimbledon, SW19.
December 29.

Ding dong merrily

From the President of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers

Sir, Simon Jenkins's interesting article on bells and bellringing (December 24) unfortunately made the language seem more arcane than it really is when he said that "For no apparent reason, five bells is a double, seven bells a triple, 11 a cinque".

A basic rule in the construction of change-ringing methods is that no bell's position in the sequence is altered by more than one place at a time, so methods are constructed by changing the positions within pairs of bells. If five bells are being rung, no more than two pairs can be swapped over — hence changes on five bells are known as doubles; on seven bells, three pairs can be changed (hence triples); on nine bells, four pairs (hence caters); and on 11 bells, five changing pairs gives cinque.

Of course, if Mr Jenkins had asked why changes on four bells give Minors, six bells Minor, eight bells Major, ten bells Royal and 12 bells Maximus...

Yours, loud and clear,
RON JOHNSTON, President,
The Central Council of
Church Bell Ringers,
Lakeside House, Wivenhoe Park,
Colchester, Essex.
December 30.

'Whinge' on the poor

From Mr James S. Woodhouse

Sir, The Conservative MP David Wilshire is reported (December 26) to have described the Archbishop of Canterbury's references to the poor and the homeless as "whingeing". If this represents the Government's view, one cannot be surprised at its continuing loss of public esteem.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES WOODHOUSE,
Welcome Cottage,
Wiveton, Holt, Norfolk.

Road-building policy

From the Chief Executive of Newbury District Council

Sir, Dr Brian Mawhinney, the Transport Secretary, has announced that work on the Newbury bypass should be delayed whilst further consideration is given to the proposed route [report, later editions, December 20; letter, December 24]. He told the House of Commons yesterday that he reached his decision after a private visit to Newbury. Not only was his visit private, his thought processes clearly were as well, if recent statements by John Wates, Minister for Railways and Roads, and Lawrie Haynes, Chief Executive of the Highways Agency, are anything to go by.

On October 31, John Wates wrote in a letter to the Newbury Bypass Supporters' Association: "I have experienced for myself the awful congestion in Newbury and... I can see no grounds for further delaying this much needed scheme."

Lawrie Haynes on November 1 echoed the thought in a letter to the leader of Newbury District Council: "As regards the recent campaign against

Child support changes

From the Under Secretary of State for Social Security

Sir, Mr Peter Jones (letter, December 29) is mistaken in his belief that the recent announcement by the Child Support Agency to defer the taking on of some income support cases means that mothers are being "abandoned" without any opportunity to pursue their claims.

The cases concerned will be those where parents with care have failed to return maintenance application forms which were issued over six months ago. In addition the agency will defer taking on cases where parents with care have been on income support continuously since April 1993 and have not asked the agency to take them on. However, the agency will generally take on any of these cases if the parent with care asks it to pursue his or her application.

The agency is continuing to deal with all new applications, including those from people making new benefit claims. It is also continuing to deal

Scoops of long ago

From Mrs Anne M. Sebba

Sir, When Frances, Viscountess de Peyronnet, found herself besieged in Paris in 1871 and began sending news to *The Times* ("Secret dispatches from Paris by balloon", December 22) she had a female rival, Mrs Emily Crawford of the *Daily News*, who had already been working as a Paris correspondent for some time.

When the besieged city was overwhelmed by a dreadful cholera epidemic, Mrs Crawford was often to be found doing the rounds of Paris hospitals in her search for news. But her most famous scoop was on March 23, 1871 when the communards seized control and she made her way, alone, at night, through the barricades and obtained an interview with the communist leaders as they sat in council.

Road-building policy

From the Secretary of State for Transport

... the Secretary of State can see no grounds for delaying the bypass."

Perhaps Dr Mawhinney could explain what factors persuaded him to change his mind. And will he come publicly to Newbury to meet with representatives of the business community, local groups and the local authority to discuss the range of issues which his statement so neatly sidesteps?

Yours sincerely,
P. E. McMAHON, Chief Executive,
Newbury District Council,
Council Offices, Market Street,
Newbury, Berkshire.
December 20.

From Mr Colin S. Jones

Sir, The Standing Advisory Committee on Trunk Road Assessment (SACTRA) offers us a valuable insight in suggesting that new roads generate new traffic. It is a pity that the railway-builders a century and a half

From Mr David Gardam, QC

Sir, Professor Stanton tells us three times that Dr Carsten Thiede is wrong. Must what the professor tells us three times be true? Until he deigns to answer Dr Thiede's argument — which was, as reported by you, very simple, clear and easy to understand — the suspicion must remain for some of us that it may be the professor and his fellow scholars who have not noticed a conclusive piece of evidence.

Why, if the Magdalen fragments are written in a script which went out of use in the middle of the first century AD, have we to accept that they date from the end of the second century, more probably the third?

Yours faithfully,
DAVID GARDAM,
Haven House, Sandwich, Kent.
December 29.

From Mr J. Enoch Powell

Sir, Reasons for regarding Matthew's Gospel as earlier than those of Mark or Luke will be found in my recently published *Evolution of the Gospel* (Yale).

However, Greek bookhand changed so slowly between the first and second centuries AD that to date a papyrus fragment on the basis of the writing alone is notoriously difficult. It is here that the weakness of Dr Thiede's thesis will be found to lie. So far as my own knowledge goes, no New Testament papyrus have been dated securely before the second century AD.

I am, Sir,
Yours faithfully,
J. ENOCH POWELL,
33 South Eaton Place, SW1.
December 29.

From Mr Michael Kimmitt

Sir, I know little about papyrology, but I can tell you that the page of the Bible reproduced in today's *Weekend* is not from the Authorised Version. It looks very like the Revised Version of 1881 to me.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL KIMMITT,
47 Elvetnam Road, Birmingham 15.
December 24.

with all cases where the parent with care has provided information about the absent parent. To enable staff to deal more effectively with these cases, the agency has taken the decision temporarily to suspend action on the cases described above.

The agency will recommence its intake of existing income support cases once it is ready to deal with them promptly and at a high standard.

Yours faithfully,
ALISTAIR BURT,
Department of Social Security,
Richmond House, 79 Whitehall, SW1.
December 30.

From Mrs B. J. Carmichael

Sir, I would like it to be known that, entirely due to the efforts of the now much maligned CSA, my daughter has had her weekly maintenance raised to £62, which is a vast improvement on the £7.50 she has been receiving for the last 15 years.

Yours faithfully,
B. J. CARMICHAEL,
7 South Stack Road,
Holyhead, Gwynedd.

She went on to cover the Versailles conference in May 1871, sitting from seven in the morning until midnight in front of the loge grille to which she had been admitted by special favour. She was allowed neither to move nor to take any notes, but she had a remarkable memory and she sat up all night writing and sent her dispatch to London on the first mail.

Hers was the first full account of the debate and defeat of the French Government to reach the English press. Meanwhile her husband and other correspondents, unable to gain admittance, could only mingle with the crowd and write "colour" pieces about the state of popular feeling.

Yours sincerely,
ANNE M. SEBBA,
9 Pembroke Villas,
The Green, Richmond, Surrey.
December 22.

Road-building policy

From the Secretary of State for Transport

ago did not refrain from laying down new railway lines for fear that they might generate new economic activity. Or indeed the canal builders in the 18th century.

Come to think of it, it is a pity that the same insight was not shared by electronic engineers, chemists, pharmaceutical scientists, steel-makers, oil prospectors, or indeed the explorers of the 15th, 16th and 17th centuries.

Yours faithfully,
COLIN JONES,
30 Gloucester Circus,
Greenwich, SE10.
December 20.

From Mr Colin P. West

Sir, The obvious solution to the environmental problems caused by excessive usage of the car is the motor cycle or moped — an underrated, often despised form of transport that is more fuel-efficient than the car, less stressful to use and consumes only 12 per cent of the metal and plastic in a car.

Yours sincerely,
COLIN P. WEST,
9 Church Gardens, Ealing, W5.
December 20.

India's failure to rescue the Taj

From Mr Nani A. Palkhivala

Sir, You have done a signal service to India by publishing Bernard Levin's article of December 20 on the Taj Mahal, "A monumental problem" (see also letters, December 26). I cannot easily bring to the surface of my mind any country which cares less for its heritage than India. Of all civilised nations on earth, India takes the palm for cultural illiteracy.

Mr Levin is quite right when he says that India does not deserve the priceless monument. We have done nothing to preserve it and almost everything to destroy it. A "cancer" has struck the Taj's silken white stones — and the Indian Government's response is only to have untrained labour do an inadequate clean-up job and to replace such of the marble which has been so afflicted, but not to root out the cause of the problem.

The Supreme Court of India has done more than the executive of the country to preserve the Taj Mahal. That court had issued an injunction to shut down the offending industries — the cause of the polluting and corrosive emissions and effluents which are responsible for the sorry state of the Taj Mahal. But so much is happening in our country, day after day, that hardly a handful of people recall that the Supreme Court had more than once to issue a contempt notice against the mercenary vandals who did not obey the court's injunction to preserve our priceless heritage.

A Nelson's eye is being turned to the industries violating the ban, because votes are more important to politicians than our heritage. My firm conviction is that in world history no country has ever paid so heavy a price for democracy as India has been paying for decades.

The Taj Mahal, along with the caves at Ajanta and Ellora, which are equally wondrous treasures, are labelled "World Heritage Monuments" — which is laughable when one sees the cavalier manner in which the Indian Government treats these masterpieces. The irony of it will be when finally Mr Levin's words come true and the world comes to the rescue of these marvels which, neglected and underserved by India, are indeed the world's heritage.

Yours faithfully,
NANI A. PALKHIVALA,
Commonwealth,
181 Backbay Reclamation,
Bombay 400 020, India.
December 27.

Red squirrels

From Mr Colin Shanks

Sir, I can assure Lynne Greenwood ("Bright-eyed, bushy-tailed and in danger", *Weekend*, December 17) that there are at least two further sites in southern England where the red squirrel can be found.

These are Brownsea Island in Poole Harbour, and the Isle of Wight. On the latter, the Forest Enterprise, part of the Forestry Commission, is encouraging the red squirrel by providing feeding hoppers and a variety of tree species when we replant, and by leaving mature trees for seed as a food source for our endangered acrobats.

Yours etc,
COLIN SHANKS
(District Forester, Isle of Wight),
Forestry Commission,
Parkhurst Forest,
Newport, Isle of Wight.

Whither cock robin?

From Ms Norah Errock

Sir, This year I have received many more cards depicting cats than robins, the former looking fatter than usual. Is this significant?

Yours faithfully,
NORAH ERROCK,
19 Balmoral Road,
Worcester Park, Surrey.
December 29.

Winds of change

From Mr Ronald J. Davies

Sir, Eggs packed in boxes of ten are beginning to creep into our local supermarket. Is this an attempt to delete the word "dozen" from our language? What happens if you want half-a-dozen?

Again, for years I have purchased stock-size trousers with an inside leg of 29 inches. Suddenly, in a number of local shops, this has become 29.5 inches. What am I to do? The chances of my growing any more at 63 are really quite slender.

Yours faithfully,
RONALD J. DAVIES,
106 Princes Road,
Buckhurst Hill, Essex.
January 1.

Non-stick trousers

From Mr T. L. Nash

Sir, As the curry and spaghetti slide off your Teflon trousers (report, December 30), may I suggest a style without turnups.

Yours,
TIM NASH (Director),
Geo Heaphy & Sons Ltd,
(Tailors and outfitters),
4 Westgate House,
Market Street, Warwick.
December 30.

15 JAN 1995

Forthcoming marriages

OBITUARIES

AIR CHIEF MARSHAL SIR EDMUND HUDLESTON

Air Chief Marshal Sir Edmund Hudleston, GCB, CBE, former Commander of Allied Air Forces in Central Europe, died on December 14 aged 85. He was born on December 30, 1908.

TEDDY Hudleston was one of the most gifted staff officers of his generation. Indeed, he was almost too efficient for his own good, being stuck behind a desk at staff headquarters instead of flying against the enemy as he wished. But although he never made the newspaper headlines, he won international recognition and fast promotion. Four times he was mentioned in dispatches, once on India's North West Frontier in the 1930s and three times during the Second World War. He made a lasting impression on General Eisenhower at the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers in Europe (SHAPE), was rushed to Cyprus to head the air staff during the Suez crisis and then had to cope with the 1957 Defence White Paper which scrapped so many of Britain's manned fighter squadrons. Perhaps Hudleston's most perplexing task, however, had more to do with the royal air than the Royal Air Force. When George VI was visiting wartime troops in Italy, Hudleston was detailed to provide not only food fit for a king but some music to entertain him after dinner. The



quiet, unassuming, unflappable young staff officer succeeded in scraping together a motley ensemble of airmen who could play some kind of musical instrument — and their product was even more successful than he had hoped.

born Edmund Cuthbert Hudleston in Kalgoolie, Western Australia, son of the Archdeacon of Perth. But his father had emigrated from Cumberland, where the family still has its roots. From Guildford School, Western Australia, Hudleston won a place at Cranwell. After serving with a fighter squadron based in Kent, Hudleston was sent to the Central Flying School where he qualified as an instructor, then went back to Cranwell where he helped train a number of those who were later to distinguish themselves in the Battle of Britain. There followed three years in India, then a year at Staff College, after which he had a squadron. Instead, he found himself on a training mission in Turkey, passing on his expertise to Turkish pilots. The pattern of his career had already been set. In 1941 he went to Cairo on the Middle East Headquarters staff, then followed the Allies' trail to Sicily and Italy. He was one of those cleared to read the top-secret Ultra signals from Bletchley Park, where scientists had cracked the German codes. But this had its disadvantages as far as Hudleston was concerned since it meant that he was held back from flying duties. The Air Ministry could not run the risk of his being captured by the enemy with such sensitive information in his head.

Hudleston's first wartime command came in 1944 when, with the rank of air vice-marshal he was given charge of 84 Group, part of the 2nd Tactical Air Force. His group's task was that of supporting the Canadian 1st Army in Holland. Some consider that this was in many ways his finest hour. Completely free of bombast or stuffiness, he acted with quiet authority, encouraging those in the frontline to take operational decisions, thereby promoting flexibility and initiative. He took great pride in his selection after the war as head of the British military delegation to the Western European Union, which helped establish his reputation on the Continent. Then after a posting as air officer commanding (AOC) No 1 Group in Bomber Command, he was sent to Paris as deputy chief of staff at the newly-formed SHAPE. Two years later he took over No 3 Group, Bomber Command, with the job of introducing the first aircraft of the V-bomber force carrying Britain's nuclear deterrent. In 1956 he was chief RAF instructor at the Imperial Defence College when he was ordered by the Air Ministry to pack his bags for Cyprus, to head the air staff there during the Suez operation. But the five years which were to follow as Vice-Chief of the Air Staff from 1957 onwards were almost as testing, given the impact on the RAF of Duncan

Sendys's controversial 1957 White Paper. This not only announced the ending of National Service but declared that surface-to-air missiles would henceforth shoulder much of the burden of air defence. Hudleston had to cope not only with operational changes but a rash of redundancies and subsequent loss of morale. He was Commander-in-Chief Transport Command 1962-63, then crossed the Channel once more for his final job as Commander, Allied Air Forces Central Europe, 1964-67, which for a period he held in tandem with the post of Commander-in-Chief, Allied Forces Central Europe. In retirement he was, from 1971 to 1979 a director of Pilkington Brothers (Optical Division). A tall, well-liked, humorous man, Teddy Hudleston was decorated by the United States, The Netherlands, France and Belgium after the war. But he always attributed his success to his prowess at cricket and the contacts he made while playing for the RAF. A supremely fit man, he lost his sight in the last few years. Teddy Hudleston's Australian wife Nancy died in 1980 and he subsequently married a widow, Brenda Witherington. She survives him, together with a son and daughter from his first marriage.

MITKO CALOVSKI

Mitko Calovski, Yugoslav Ambassador to Britain, 1985-89, died in London on Christmas Day aged 64. He was born in Bitola, Macedonia, on April 3, 1930.



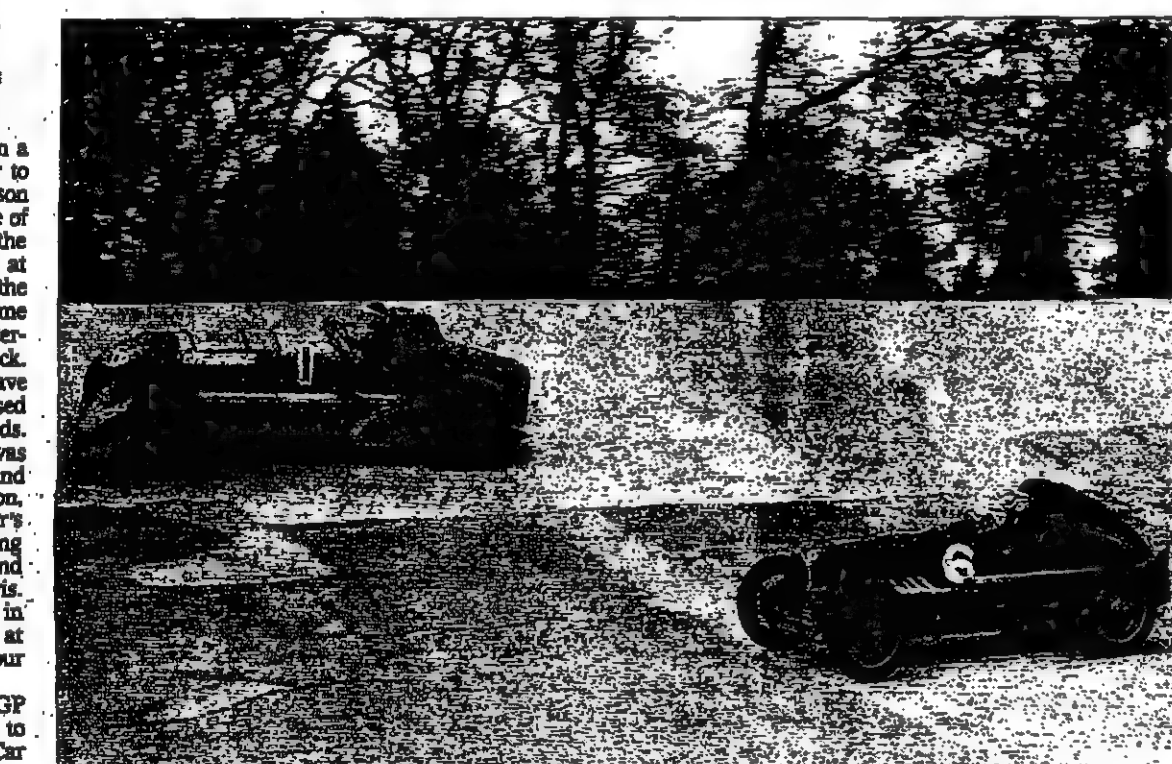
A MACEDONIAN by birth, a Yugoslav in his heart, Mitko Calovski was one of the generation whose entire life, from adolescence to the day Yugoslavia finally and irretrievably broke up was identified with the Titoist postwar regime to which he served with distinction as a diplomat. Born into a prosperous family he was only 11 when the old monarchist Yugoslavia was invaded, dismembered and divided between the neighbouring invading Balkan states. But from early on his family sided with the resistance movement and he, still a boy, saw his five older sisters joining the movement. By the end of the war he, like scores of Macedonians for whom only the Tito's Communists held the promise to fulfil Macedonian national aspirations, joined the partisans and from there on continued to serve. He regarded these ideas not only as national but social too. At the age of 18 he moved to Belgrade where he graduated in politics and diplomacy joining Yugoslavia's foreign service soon afterwards to become first the Consul-General in Toronto in 1967 and, some years later, Ambassador to Canada. On return to his country he headed the planning and analysis department in Yugoslavia's foreign ministry and, before his appointment as Ambassador in the UK in 1985 headed the federal ministry of information. In 1985, when he came to London, the economic crisis was already shaking Yugoslavia's foundations and he applied all his skills and energy, as well as his undoubted powers of persuasion, to secure Western financial backing. Many years later, when Yugoslavia had already collapsed, he often complained of the West's lack of understanding and wondered whether the break-up and the tragic conse-

quences would have been avoided had there been more willingness on the part of the Western countries to help. By the time he left his post in 1989, Slobodan Milosevic was already firmly in power in Serbia, nationalism in Serbia was unleashed and the Yugoslav crisis was heading towards its tragic end. Calovski, like many of his countrymen, spent the last three years in London. Here he used all his energy to help all those in need, especially Bosnian refugees, and maintained personal friendships with all the scattered former Yugoslavs who, disagreeing with a regime in their own country which proclaimed independence, found refuge here. He knew that Yugoslavia's reintegration was impossible in the near future. But he saw a long-term chance within a wider European framework. However, he was a realist. He knew that this could be only a far away dream. "I can't simply forget my entire life, for forty years of which I have firmly believed in an idea which in my lifetime has collapsed," he told friends only the day before he suddenly died. He used all the personal influence acquired while he served in this country as Yugoslav Ambassador, to assist his native Macedonia. He felt deeply for Macedonia's plight but was equally critical of the errors committed. He leaves a widow, Ivana, and a son and daughter.

GEORGE HARVEY NOBLE

George Harvey Noble, motor racing driver, died on December 27 aged 84. He was born on November 25, 1910.

RACING cars of all sizes — from a very fast 750cc MG single-seater to the difficult 6½-litre Bentley-Jackson — George Harvey Noble was one of the best known drivers at the Brooklands Motor Course at Weybridge in the active days of the 1930s. He also spent much of his time testing racing cars on the outer-circuit of the famous banked track. So enthusiastic was he that he gave up a successful business and closed his garage to live close to Brooklands. George Harvey Noble, who was educated at Wellsborough and studied engineering in Brighton, gave up motorcycling at his mother's request and began his motoring career with a Gordon England Austin 7, followed by a 12/50 Alvis. These he drove in speed trials and in typical beginners' events at Brooklands, such as the one-hour High Speed trials. His racing proper began with a GP Salmons, his first success being to come home second in the Light Car Club's Race in 1932, as a member of an all-Salmon team. After that he sought a faster car and acquired a 2-litre Grand Prix Bugatti with which he gained prizes both on his favoured outer banked circuit and over the Brooklands' so-called "Mountain" circuit. By the mid-1930s Harvey Noble's knowledge of the Brooklands' Track



Harvey Noble leading in a Bugatti at the Easter meeting at Brooklands in 1939

was probably as great as anyone's and he joined Robin Jackson, the great racing expert, in testing his racing cars. These included Jackson's 2-litre Alfa, which Harvey Noble raced for him, and a variety of very quick motor cars of many kinds. By now Harvey Noble resided at "The Ship" in Weybridge, and would spend long days testing at the track. He beat the works twin-cam Austin 7s from Longbridge with an MG of the same engine size, setting for all time the class lap record to 122.40 mph. In 1937, as well as winning handicap races in it against much larger cars. When Peter Aitken took over the exciting Bimotore Alfa Romeo from Arthur Dobson — who had brought it from Italy — Harvey Noble did his

best to tame it. It was a car which even the ace Nuvolari regarded as dangerous, although taking records with it at over 200mph. Eventually it was deemed too unsuitable for breaking the absolute Brooklands lap record and Harvey Noble assisted Aitken in using one of its engines in the Alfa Aitken. So crowd-pulling had the Bimotore been that when it was a non-starter the track authorities put a notice on the Brooklands' entrance gates to this effect, to avoid refunding the race-goers' money. Among the well selected cars Harvey Noble raced were the Bowler-Hoffman with Bentley engine, Aitken's 6C Maserati and the big Bentley-Jackson. He was enormously proud of being the last driver to gain a BARC 130 mph badge with the Bentley-Jackson in 1939, just before war closed the track. After the war Harvey Noble suffered failing health and declining eyesight but he would travel to the modern Millbrook test track when the old Bentley-Jackson broke records (one of its drivers was Prince Michael of Kent). A keen member of the Brooklands Society, Harvey Noble was never happier than when he was remembering Brooklands and his friends who drove there with him. He got together a badge of every car he had raced and would discuss all the tricks of getting around the outer circuit at a car's maximum speed. In recent times he lived with his wife on the South Coast. She and their daughter survive him.

RUTH MANSFIELD

Ruth Mansfield, MBE, anaesthetist, died at her home near Haslemere on December 10 aged 92. She was born Ruth Webster in London on August 1, 1902.

RUTH MANSFIELD was Consultant Anaesthetist to the Brompton Hospital for Diseases of the Chest from 1948 to 1967. She was widely respected in the medical profession for her expertise in giving local anaesthetics for the operation of thoracoplasty for pulmonary tuberculosis. Known to all her colleagues as "Mrs M", she undertook sessions at sanatoria in Surrey and King Edward VII Hospital, Midhurst, with visits to Sully Hospital near Cardiff. She co-edited a textbook on thoracic surgical anaesthesia and was the author of several papers on the subject. She took part in the early work on open heart surgery as a colleague of Lord Brock, Sir Clement Price Thomas and many other well-known surgeons in that field. Ruth Evelyn Mansfield was married in 1925, the year before she qualified in medicine, and spent the next seven years working for the Red Cross and as clinical assistant at the Belgrave Hospital, while bringing up her family of two. In 1935, she became house anaesthetist at the Westminster Hospital and, inspired by the late Sir Ivan Magill, decided to make her career in anaesthesia. After working in the Emergency Medical Service during the Second World War at the

Mayday Hospital, Croydon, and the Chest Unit at Horton Hospital near Epsom, she was appointed assistant anaesthetist at the Brompton Hospital and became a consultant there in 1948 at the beginning of the National Health Service. Her wish to help others in less fortunate circumstances led her to work voluntarily in hospitals in Malaysia and Israel and, after her retirement from practice in this country in 1967, she spent ten years at the Christian Medical College Hospital in Vellore in southern India, with only short visits home, introducing anaesthesia for cardiac surgery there. For this work, she received the MBE in 1977. At the age of 77, she spent two years at the Miraj Medical Centre, Maharashtra. She and her husband were staunch Nonconformists. Neither of them drank or smoked but they never forced their views on others and were most generous and kindly hosts to their younger colleagues and their families. Ruth Mansfield enjoyed playing tennis, gardening and swimming, the last two well into her eighties. She never lost her interest in anaesthesia and, on the day of her death, attended a meeting on the history of anaesthesia at the Royal Society of Medicine and delighted her colleagues with spontaneous recollection of her experience in dental anaesthesia over fifty years ago. Her husband Leonard died in 1958. She is survived by her son, also a doctor, and her daughter.

MARY ANN McCALL

Mary Ann McCall, jazz and popular singer, died in Los Angeles on December 14 aged 75. She was born in Philadelphia on May 4, 1919.

THE great disadvantage of Mary Ann McCall's career was that when she was at her best in the late 1940s, the American Federation of Musicians, led by James C. Petrillo, imposed a ban on recordings in the United States, and her finest work went commercially unrecorded. Fortunately, many of her 1948 radio broadcasts as vocalist with Woody Herman's Orchestra at the Hollywood Palladium survived, proving that her high reputation among fellow musicians, and particularly Herman alumni, was entirely justified. She had a sweet, clear voice, ideally suited to ballads like "I

Got It Bad and That Ain't Good", or her featured duet with Herman: "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot". Perhaps her most poignant duet with Herman was an ironic couplet squeezed into "Baby I Need You", where to laughter from the band they sang: "A bed needs a pillow/Like we need Petrillo..." By the time the ban ended, and she returned to the studio with Herman in late December 1948, the big band era was drawing to a close, and Herman's "Second Herd" had only one more year of its life left. Mary Ann McCall started her career dancing and singing with Buddy Morrow's band in her home town. At 20 she went on the road with Tommy Dorsey, before making her debut with Woody Herman's first band in April 1939 with "Big Wig In A

Wigwag". This job was a recognition of her quality, since Herman featured Mary Martin and the Andrews Sisters on other discs made at the same time. She left Herman to sing with Charlie Barnett, before spending four years as a freelance, working with Tommy Reynolds (1944), Barney Gray in California in 1945. The following year she was with Art Kassel in San Diego, before rejoining Herman in September 1946, replacing Frances Wayne. She married Herman's tenor saxophonist Al Cohn, and remained with the band until it broke up in December 1949. "It was the best white band around in those days," wrote the band's vibes player, Terry Gibbs. "We had Mary Ann McCall — how much better can you do?" The high regard

in which she was held among musicians was partly due to the fact that she made several innovative, if relatively obscure, solo sessions while still with Herman, before the AFM ban. These included a 1947 date for arranger Ralph Burns, where she was joined by modern jazz pioneers Howl McGhee and Dexter Gordon. Her solo career began in earnest at the end of the ban with a session for Discovery, conducted by Phil Moore. She won Down Beat's poll as best band singer the same year, 1949. Apart from rejoining Charlie Ventura with Mary Ann McCall for Norman Granz's Norgran label, she spent the rest of her life as a solo singer, recording with Ernie Wilkins, Teddy Charles



and Johnny Richards in the 1950s, before rejoining and settling in Detroit, confining her live appearances to the Michigan area. Her last return to public singing was in the late 1970s, when she cut several stylish albums with Jake Hanna and Nat Pierce.

Church appointments

The Rev David Boddy, Curate, Peterlee: to be Assistant Priest, Shirey Row (in plurality w. Herrington) and Peshaw (Durham). The Rev Christine Challenger, Assistant Curate (NSM), Middlesbrough, St Cuthbert: to be Chaplain (part-time NSM), South Tees Community and Mental Health NHS Trust (York). The Rev Hereward Cooke, Assistant Priest, Norwich St Peter Mancroft, Rural Dean of Norwich East and Acting Senior Industrial Chaplain, Norwich: to be now Senior Industrial Chaplain, remaining Rural Dean of Norwich East and Assistant Priest at Norwich St Peter Mancroft (Norwich). The Rev Frederick Corke, Asst. St Martin and St Andrew, the Calke (York).

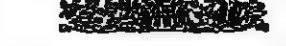
The Right Rev David Evans, General Secretary of the South American Missionary Society, based at Tunbridge Wells: to be also an Assistant Bishop in the diocese of Rochester. The Rev Edward Ewer (Father Jonathan SSM): to be Diocesan Director of Ordinands (Durham). The Rev Robin Exell, Rector, Ratcliffe, Bretnetham and Thorpe Morieux: to be also Priest-in-charge, Hingham and Little Finborough (St Edmundsbury and Ipswich). The Rev Jonathan Falkner, Rector, South Elmham and the Ilkeshall, Flixton, Homersfield and Rumburgh: to be also Rural Dean of Beccles and South Elmham (St Edmundsbury and Ipswich). The Rev Stephen Ferns: to be Priest-in-charge, Norton St Mary (Durham).

A NURSERY CUPBOARD Toys of Today and Yesterday After 50 years it is not difficult to recall the look and the smell of the nursery cupboard and to think with some eagerness of its contents. There were in it bats and balls for cricket in a small garden, a candle bull's-eye lantern, greatly treasured in the days before electric torches were invented, glass marbles of considerable beauty, a wooden soapbox intended for carpenter's tools but once chosen by the cat as the repository of her kittens, and materials for such table games as ludo and noddlywinks. Literature was chiefly represented by a store catalogue much appreciated for its excellent and varied illustrations. The more essentially feminine toys, the tea set and the dinner set — still used on festival occasions by their owner's grandchildren — lived in the neighbouring doll's house. There were in particular in that cupboard lead soldiers — like the British Army, few but of high quality. These could be made, with some imagination, to march past almost as well as the army, led by Sir Garnet Wolseley, marched past Queen Victoria in Mr Poole's "Myriorama", which came once a year to the Assembly Rooms and offered thrills of which the modern film-goer can know nothing. There were also two brass cannon which one loaded under supervision with black powder, ramming the shot down with a knitting needle: they were unequalled in precision at short range if one held one's breath in applying the

pantry taper to the touch-hole. Thoughts of that distant scene came flooding to memory when the writer, confronted with the hideous business of moving, surveyed the belongings of his daughter, who has enough possessions to fill many cupboards, and all of them very precious and on no account meantly to be sorted out while she is away from home. Those belongings must all be moved — the dolls and their beds and their prams, the gramophone, the lantern, the aeroplane, the furry animals of the bear tribe, the books, the paint-boxes that the FRA might envy, and the shop. It was in a warmer climate than that of London that she embarked on the trade of shop-keeping and to such eminence did she rise as shop-keeper that she received a parchment warrant of appointment as supplier of perfums de luxe to a kindly Governor, whose military secretary sent it by the trusted hand of a mounted sowar of the bodyguard. It is a shop that must be handed on. Will all these treasures be lovingly recalled in 50 years' time?

ON THIS DAY

January 2 1936



One might add another question to that with which the writer closed. Do the children of today appreciate in the same way the toys they got at Christmas?

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SPORT FOR ALL



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Making way for the stronger sex

FOOTBALL



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Saints and sinners mix flair with malice

RUGBY UNION



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Australia's last-gasp kick foils Scotland schoolboys

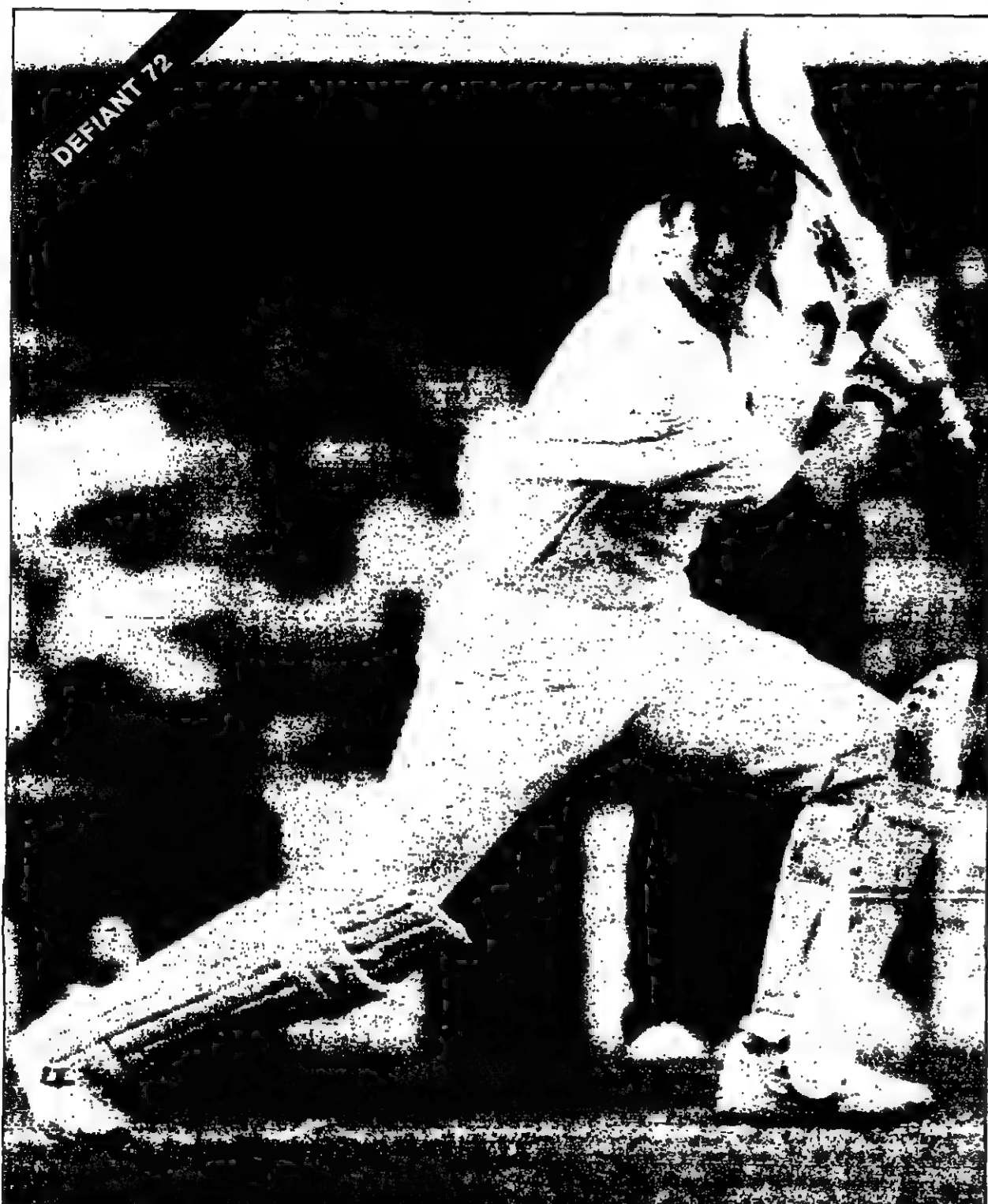
RACING



24

Complete guide to bank holiday meetings

TIMES SPORT



Crawley, who rebuilt the England innings in a stand of 174 with Atherton, drives through the off side



England's disastrous last session is complete as Rhodes fails to make his ground before Healy breaks the wicket



Gatting registers his disgust after falling to McDermott



Hick's brief stay is ended by McDermott's inswinger

Batsmen cast as heroes and villains after double collapse

McDermott wrecks England

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT, IN SYDNEY

THERE is a New Year's Eve tradition among the people of Sydney, which involves sitting around the harbour-side for many hours awaiting a fireworks display that lasts only a few minutes. Those attending the third Test, on the morning after the night before, thought they were witnessing this routine in reverse, until a second display was staged in the dying minutes of play.

Three-quarters of this first day belonged to England, their ailing spirits galvanised by a partnership of character between the captain, Michael Atherton, and his alter ego, John Crawley. Either side of it, however, lay familiar destruction. Of the day's seven wickets, three fell for 20 in the opening hour, the remaining four for just three runs in the final half-hour.

Atherton batted for 329 minutes and was so distraught at falling when he did that his head never lifted to witness 31,000 people standing in tribute. Minutes later, Crawley had gone, after a positive, fluent 72, the innings of one who must now be reassured he is in the side for the foreseeable future.

All seven wickets were taken by a ball in its first overs of use, the mark of a challenging but by no means malicious pitch. Shane Warne did not take a wicket all day, a remark worth savouring for its originality, and the heroics were left to Craig McDermott, who took two wickets in the morning, two in the evening, and spent much of the afternoon

off the field with debilitating stomach-cramps. McDermott and Warne were last night tied at 20 wickets apiece in this series and, while the star-spangled spinner has monopolised public adulation, England would be a good deal less penurious had McDermott not performed as he has. His first over with the second new ball, in which he dismissed both Atherton and Mike Gatting, was as fine a piece of cricket as any seen in the past weeks.

The Australian pair are different in far more ways than their bowling styles. Warne is engagingly loquacious, generous in his praise for others. McDermott is more taciturn. Last night, for instance, he was grudging in his acknowledgment of England's fourth-wicket pair. Crawley, according to McDermott, "must have scored 66 of his 72 on the leg side". Pressed to be gracious about Atherton, he responded: "Um... he's obvi-

SCOREBOARD FROM SYDNEY

ENGLAND: First Innings	
G A Gooch c Healy b Fleming	1
(70m, 6 balls)	
M A Atherton b McDermott	88
(281m, 287 balls, 6 fours)	
G A Healy b McDermott	2
(21m, 13 balls)	
G P Thorpe b McDermott	10
(27m, 17 balls, 5 fours)	
J P Crawley c M Waugh b Fleming	72
(251m, 226 balls, 6 fours)	
M W Gatting c Healy b McDermott	0
(3m, 4 balls)	
A N C Pinner not out	3
(21m, 18 balls)	
S J Rhodes run out (S R Waugh/Fleming/Healy)	1
(3m, 2 balls)	
D Gough not out	0
(12m, 9 balls)	
Extras (D 7, B 7, NB 7)	21
Total (7 wickets, 588m) ... 198	
D E Malcolm and P C R Tubb to bat	

ously got some qualities," as if he could not think what they might be. Both were worthy of kinder words than that.

They came together in the type of mess to which Atherton has grown accustomed but Crawley will have found novel. His cricket has mirrored that of his captain, threading

through Manchester Grammar School, Cambridge University, England Under-19 and Lancashire. At each stage, just as Atherton did, a history degree course earlier, he heard it said that the highest honours are preordained.

Crawley's first experiences at this level, against South

Africa, were deflating. Now, given his chance due to Alec Stewart's broken finger, his mettle was tested every bit as much as his off-questioned technique. Neither let him down.

Atherton had chosen to bat as, logically, he had to, but there was enough moisture below the surface to promise early hazards. A banner, fluttering from a fast-filling main stand, summarised up the mood of condescension spreading among the Australian public. "If the Poms bat first, let's tell the taxi to wait," it read.

Graham Gooch would not have added much to any ticking meters and his third successive failure was a sad one, his lack of footwork indicating a great player heading inexorably for the end. Damien Fleming had beaten him twice in his opening over, with his stock outswinger, before producing a beauty to have him caught behind. McDermott then slanted an inswinger through a gap between Graeme Hick's bat and

pad and had Graham Thorpe leg-before with a yorker that hit him on the back foot.

Atherton, although in far from convincing form, displayed the necessary resilience. He needed the fortune he did not have in Melbourne, surviving one persuasive leg-before appeal, and he ventured only two scoring strokes in an hour-long passage of attrition.

This, however, is his way, and as the scoreboard regularly flashed up the information that he made more Test runs than anyone in the world during 1994, who is to deride it? Sydney is also the ground on which he batted 451 minutes for his first overseas Test hundred, four years ago, and as the day wore on a repeat looked ever more probable.

McDermott had to retreat to the dressing-room after a waspish post-lunch spell and Australia did not take another wicket until he next bowled. By then, the fourth wicket had added 174. England's biggest stand of the series.

McDermott knocked out Atherton's off stump with late inswing, then had Gatting caught behind, fourth ball, with lift and away swing. Fleming squared up Crawley, Mark Waugh taking the catch at second slip, whereupon mounting panic brought a slice of slapstick cricket that would have been mocked in a village second team, its result the run-out of Steven Rhodes. Normal service had been resumed, just when England had hinted at a change of plot.

Fletcher hints at Illingworth rift

THE private power struggle between Raymond Illingworth and Keith Fletcher is threatening to become unedifyingly public after an open disagreement yesterday over a summons for yet another replacement player (Alan Lee writes).

During only ten days in Australia, Illingworth, the chairman of selectors, has assumed a high profile, offering criticisms whenever asked, some of them personal and others tactless. While his support for Michael Atherton's captaincy

has been loyal, the same cannot be said of his backing for Fletcher, the team manager.

Fletcher has superficially absorbed all this with equanimity but yesterday, frayed edges were on view when he was questioned at close of play about the long-term side injury to Craig White and the much-mooted possibility that Neil Fairbrother, of Lancashire, was about to join the tour.

Having agreed that White is unlikely to take any further part in the pro-

gramme, Fletcher insisted that no decision had been taken on a replacement. He was then informed that Illingworth had visited the press box and declared that Fairbrother was on his way.

"Whatilly says is up toilly," Fletcher said, with an unusual edge to his voice. "Fairbrother has not been called for, not by me and certainly not by Illingworth." The use of the surname did not seem insignificant and the question of just who is running the England team becomes harder to answer each day.

John Woodcock, page 25

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BLAZER

Wariso ups gas in successful comeback



Wariso: inside 21 seconds

By DAVID POWELL

SOLOMON WARISO stepped on the gas, as distinct from upping it with ephedrine, and recorded the fastest two indoor sprints of his life over the weekend. Wariso, who failed a drugs test after taking Up Your Gas pills, fought his way onto the podium in the Birmingham New Year Games, his first competition since completing his suspension.

After the sport had booted him into the cold for his transgression, he chose the warmth of the national indoor arena for a cosy return. Athletics outnumbered spectators and not an unkind word was heard. "Athletes have been saying to me 'Welcome back'," Wariso said. "Not one adverse comment, at least not to my face."

Wariso is acknowledged, by Peter

Radford, the executive chairman of the British Athletic Federation, among others, to have been naive in not checking whether Up Your Gas contained a banned substance and that he had no intent to cheat. His failed test cost him his place in the European Championships and Commonwealth Games.

Including rounds and finals, Wariso ran six races over the weekend. "I do not normally do the 60 metres, but what with the ban, I wanted to grab every opportunity to run," he said. The reward for his endeavours was a personal best 6.72sec for third place in the 60 metres on Saturday and his first sub-21sec run for 200 metres yesterday.

Wariso improved his best from 21.01sec to 20.99sec, but, paradoxically, slipped from eighth to seventh in the all-time British rankings. Darren Braithwaite, with whom he shared

sixth place, recorded 20.87sec to win. Wariso regretted running the shorter event. "Never again will I do a 60 metres," he said. He concluded that the doping effect had cost him a victory in the 200 metres.

It may also deny him a place in Britain's first match of the year, against Russia in Birmingham on January 28. In the two-a-side fixture, Braithwaite can expect to be chosen to partner John Regis. Though not excited by the prospect of the world indoor championships in Barcelona in March, concerned that too much indoor running might place demands on his "dodgy back", Wariso will go if selected. "I would not get ideas above my station and start turning championships down," he said.

Wariso thought of quitting, but, after six weeks off, resumed training. Michael Bruce, Wariso's coach, detects a

new resolve. "You never appreciate what you have got until you have lost it, and he nearly lost it," Bruce said. "He's changed. He's more serious. Something like what happened to him shocks you and scares you. He is much more focused."

A time of 20.85sec is Wariso's target now and, given his poor start and slow first bend, that seems realistic. Come the summer, he will experiment with the 400 metres and, if successful, will move up in distance at the AAA championships to try to challenge Roger Black and Du'aine Ladejo. "I reckon I have the speed and the strength for the 400," Wariso said.

Braithwaite, mainly because of injuries, has not fulfilled the potential he showed in 1990 when he reached the European 100 metres final. He hopes that this year will be different, starting with the world indoor championships.

Runaway Kenyan winner as world is reminded of 'real' cross country

Radcliffe senses hope from defeat in Durham mud

By DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

FOR the jingoistic British sports fan, tired of the failures of 1994, a date for the diary: March 25, 1995. Make your way to the bleak hill at Maiden Castle, Co Durham, and see whether Paula Radcliffe can win the senior women's world cross-country championship. She just might.

On this hill, from which almost the entire course can be viewed, spectators can watch close-up the worst of the suffering that goes into cross-country running. The hill is long, steep, and muddy. This is real cross country, the toughest part of a lap, to be run several times, which will take the world championships this year away from the flat, characterless circuits which have become the norm.

"A proper cross-country course," was Radcliffe's verdict after the County Durham International on Saturday, staged on a shorter, inner circuit, of the one to be used for the world championships. Radcliffe finished third in her first international elite race for 11 months after injury. On ten weeks' full training, she split Ireland's two European champions, Catherine McKiernan and Sonia O'Sullivan, and still 11 weeks remain to reach peak fitness.

Rarely can the end of an unbeaten streak have been taken so cheerfully. "This shows I am on the right lines," Radcliffe said, pleased not

only with her run but that the foot which had given her so much trouble was only "a little bit stiff". So busy with specialisms had 1994 been, that she had almost forgotten she had won her previous seven races. Radcliffe's enthusiasm for the course — "I train on places like this" — contrasted with

The Liaoning Provincial Sports Commission in China is looking for a temporary replacement for Ma Junren, the national "super coach". Ma is in hospital, having been hurt in a car crash in Liaoning on Thursday when the vehicle he was driving struck a barrier while he was travelling from Anshan, his home town, to his training centre, which is based in Dalian.

McKiernan's reaction. "I suppose that is what cross country is about," McKiernan, who has finished runner-up at three world championships, said. "I am going to have to prepare in a completely different way; more strength work."

"I don't like the mud and it needs to be done if I'm going to run on this sort of course again."

However, one remark of McKiernan's reminded us, in our enthusiasm for Radcliffe's comeback, of the bigger picture. "These Kenyans," she

said, "I don't know what to do with them."

Last winter, Helen Chepnego became the first senior women's world cross-country champion from Kenya, and now Rose Cheruiyot, the runaway winner on Saturday, looks a prospective successor. Cheruiyot, 18, is a junior, but John Bickart, the former Great Britain steeplechaser and her manager, wants the selectors to pick her for the senior race. "She definitely will not run the junior race," Bickart said.

Besides Chepnego and Cheruiyot, there is growing depth among Kenyan women cross-country runners which suggests that they may eventually prove as invincible as the men, unless China makes a dedicated challenge.

The Chinese women were twentieth in the world championships last year, but Wang Bin, their coach in Durham, said he expected his country to be in the team medals come March, though that was on Friday. He may think differently now that he knows the course is a mud soup, not to Chinese tastes.

It was the attendance of Wang, who sits with Ma Junren on China's training committee, that was more significant than that of his athletes, neither of whom finished in the top ten and are unlikely to make the team. He had been briefed to



McKiernan, left, and Radcliffe flank Cheruiyot in the mud at Durham

provide a world championship preparation report: he described the course as "too soft". He also said, ominously perhaps, that China would be even more successful at the track and field world champi-

onships in Gothenburg (in August) than they were in Stuttgart in 1993, when their women distance runners took the meeting by storm.

Ismael Kirui won the men's race on Saturday. Two Ke-

nyan victories, so what is new? Andrew Pearson, Britain's top man, finished second. If he can place in the top 25 of the world championships, he will have run well. He likes tough going. Just as well.

Leeds strengthen claim

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

LEEDS, contenders for the Stones Bitter Championship, began the new year in style at a packed Headingley with a 42-14 trouncing of Halifax. Spurred on by a crowd of 19,218, the home side secured its tenth successive victory — equalling their best run for three years — against a team that had lost only two of its past 13 games.

Francis Cummins, the wing, scored a hat-trick of tries and their scrum half, Graham Holroyd, kicked seven goals from nine attempts, including three from the touchline.

Bradford forced their way into the top three by beating Salford 24-18 at wintry Old Trafford, winners there only once in the past 15 years, looked to be in with a chance of improving that record when they trailed just 20-18 after 68 minutes, but their

recent signing, Paul Round, having only his second game as a substitute since being signed from Halifax on Christmas Eve, broke Salford's spirits with a try in the closing minutes.

Bobby Goulding kicked four goals from four attempts against his old club as St Helens beat Widnes 20-10. The St Helens scrum half — returning to Naughton Park for the first time since his £135,000 summer move — also played a key role in Alan Hunte's sixteenth try of the season early in the second half which put his side on its way to victory.

A first-half hat-trick by Scott Ramsden, their wing, helped Oldham to consolidate their place in the top eight at the expense of Workington. The Cambrians gave a performance more in keeping with a mid-table side

but Oldham missed three clear-cut chances when leading by only six points before the loose forward, Mike Kuhl, scored a try on the stroke of full-time for a 20-10 win. The rest of the championship programme fell victim to icy weather that froze the pitches at Doncaster, Featherstone and Wakefield.

In the second division, the basement club, Highfield, ended a run of 39 successive league defeats with a 14-12 victory at Barrow. The deserved win — albeit against a side that has managed only one victory this term — was their first since September 1993. Julian Hudson and Gaisone Del Ferro went over for the visitors and Andy Rippon added three goals.

Hunslet scored three tries to Dewsbury's two, but five goals by Richard Agar gave the visitors an 18-16 victory.

Citroën take early honours

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

THE Citroën team dominated the opening day of the Paris-Dakar rally yesterday, filling the three leading places after the 170-kilometre first stage between Granada and Motril, in Spain.

Timo Salonen, the Finnish driver, made light of the heavy rain that made road conditions in the Sierra Nevada treacherous, completing the stage in 2hr 10min 33sec.

His team-mate and compatriot, Ari Vatanen, four times a winner of the event, was just over three minutes behind Salonen in second with the winner last year, Pierre Larrieu, of France, a further 38 seconds back. Mitsubishi took the next three places through the French pair of Jean-Pierre Fontenay and Bruno Saby, and Kenjiro Shinozuka, of Japan.

Saby, who won the rally in 1993, was forced to drive for

100 kilometres with a flat tyre after sustaining two punctures in less than three kilometres.

The Spanish driver, Salvador Servia, also of Citroën, was seventh after being hampered by a defective windshield wiper which forced him to drive slowly for much of the stage.

In the motorcycle event, Heinz Kinnigadner, from Austria, twice the world motocross champion, finished first for the stage in 2:18.29. Riding a KTM machine, he was 48 seconds ahead of the Frenchman, Stephane Peterhansel, three times a winner, on a Yamaha.

Contrary to a report in *The Times* on Saturday, an all-British team has completed the rally before. As the only British entrants in this year's race headed across the Sierra Nevada yesterday at the start of their 7,500-mile trek to the

shores of Lake Senegal, they learnt that, even if they do complete the gruelling event, they would not be the first all-British finishers.

Mark and Simon Dutton, from London, and their mechanic, Nick Morgan, from Stockton-on-Tees, began the rally without hope of winning in their Land Rover but under the impression that they could still be the first all-British team to finish.

It emerged yesterday, however, that Tony Howard and John Miles, then journalists with *Autocar* magazine, completed the rally, which was then run between Paris and Dakar, in a Range Rover in 1981. They finished 27th in their class.

"It was an amateur, unsupported, self-managed, maintained and navigated effort," Miles said, "and it was most definitely all British."

Foreman to defend against German

GEORGE FOREMAN, the world heavyweight boxing champion, will defend his title at the Louisiana Superdome in New Orleans in April. Foreman, who will be 40 on January 10, is to fight Axel Schulz, of Germany, on April 22 or April 29.

Schulz, 26, would be only the third German to challenge for the heavyweight crown. The last was Karl Mildenberger, who lost to Muhammad Ali in 1966. The only German to hold the world heavyweight title was Max Schmeling. Foreman knocked out Michael Moorer in the tenth round on November 5 to win the World Boxing Association and International Boxing Federation titles. He will be giving away 20 years to Schulz, whose last contest was a ten-round decision over the former champion, James "Bonecrusher" Smith.

PFA sues magazine

FOOTBALL: The Professional Footballers' Association (PFA) is to sue the magazine *Business* and Sunday newspapers that revealed details of its accounts. The chief executive of the PFA, Gordon Taylor, said yesterday: "We have called in our legal team as there are gross inaccuracies in the figures quoted."

The magazine revealed Taylor's earnings, saying his salary in 1992 had gone from £52,875 to more than £200,000. The story also appeared in some of yesterday's papers with the *Sunday Mirror* publishing Taylor's tax details.

Evans near to fitness

RUGBY UNION: Iwan Evans, right, the Wales wing, confidently expects to be back to full fitness by the time England play at Cardiff Arms Park on February 18. Evans fractured an ankle in October, but has made such rapid progress that he expects to play for Llanelli within a week or so. "I'm very pleased with my progress," he said. "I'll be 100 per cent in time for England."



Muralitharan strikes

CRICKET: A devastating spell of off spin bowling by Muthiah Muralitharan reduced South Africa's Border team to 218 for nine on the opening day of a four-day match against Sri Lanka in East London yesterday. Extracting alarming turn from the pitch, Muralitharan took six for 57 after Border, who won the toss and elected to bat, went to lunch on 69 without loss.

Ethiopian pair prevail

ATHLETICS: Haile Gebrselassie led an Ethiopian one-two in the 9.6km New Year's Day road race in Houilles, France, yesterday. The world 10,000 metres champion made the most of the absence through injury of Khalid Skah, of Morocco, the winner for the past six years. Gebrselassie clocked 26min 38sec to win by 14sec from Belkha Worku, who led Bruno Le Stum, of France, by 30sec.

Carr makes ideal start

CYCLING: Zachary Carr started 1995 by repeating his victory of last year in the CC Breckland ten-mile time trial at Wymondham, Norfolk, finishing in 22min 05sec and again beating Jes King into second place. Carr, 19, from Norfolk, wasted no time celebrating, setting off afterwards on a training ride. In the Midlands, the Wrecksport ten-mile trial was cancelled because of bad weather.

Cash secures victory

TENNIS: Pat Cash, right, the former Wimbledon champion, marked his latest comeback from injury by leading Australia into the Hopman Cup quarter-finals with a 2-1 win over the seventh seeds, South Africa, in Perth yesterday. Cash beat the veteran, Christo van Rensburg, 7-5, 6-2 to keep Australia in the tie and then linked with Kristine Radford to win the decisive doubles 7-6, 7-4.



Four make centuries

CRICKET: Four batsmen scored centuries in South Australia's first innings of 524 for eight declared against Victoria in the Sheffield Shield. Darren Lehmann (100) and James Brashaw (134 not out) yesterday joined Saturday's century-makers, Greg Blewett (112) and Paul Nobles (110). At the close Victoria were 171 for five.

Second-chance record

SKI JUMPING: Janne Ahonen, of Finland, took advantage of a rare decision allowing him to repeat a jump to win the second event of the Four Hills tournament at Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany, yesterday. Judges allowed a rejump after a gust of wind pushed Ahonen into the hill. Ahonen, 17, then set a hill record of 114 metres.

Tournament gets off to bad start

By NICHOLAS HARLING

WITH the new year in its infancy and the World Invitation Club basketball championships barely past the first-round matches, players and officials at Crystal Palace yesterday were doing their utmost to demonstrate that the season of goodwill is already long gone.

A loser's match between the London club, the Leopards, and Trenchin of Slovakia generated such high feelings that a player from each side met in a deliberate head-on collision during the first half.

For butting each other, Sam Stiller, a guest player for the Leopards, and Juraj Zuffa, the Trenchin player-coach, were each banned for a game by the tournament's technical committee. "There had been lots of niggles between them during the game," the tournament director, David Last, said. "It was obviously a case of early morning blues on New Year's Day."

Last was particularly upset that Stiller had blotted his copybook since both the tournament organisers and the Leopards'

first-round conquerors, Danone Horved, had agreed to his participation as an Englishman, although it was as an Israeli that the former player for Bracknell and Kingston, who is Jewish by birth, represented Maccabi Haifa until they recently folded.

"We magnanimously allowed him to play and then he goes and gets himself banned, which is very clever," Last said sarcastically. For Leopards it was a bad weekend, notwithstanding their victory over Trenchin. On Saturday, their England guard, Karl Brown, was suspended for two Budweiser League fixtures by a four-man disciplinary committee. This followed his part in a crowd disturbance in Birmingham's National Indoor-Arena a fortnight ago.

Basketball results and league tablesPage 26

Brown had left the game against Bullets to join in a fracas involving his brother, who had been asked to "refrain from using foul and abusive language" by the Birmingham owner, Harry Wrublewski. It is a fortunate coincidence, perhaps, that one of the games Brown will miss is the Leopards' return to the NIA. The other one is a visit to Manchester Giants.

Klaus Stroth, the Swedish coach of the women's club, London Heat, was another to see red, for disputing a call made by the Australian official, Jeanine Colihole, and then persisting and, finally, for addressing "some totally inappropriate words in our direction," according to the commissioner, Mike Pollock.

Stroth incurred three technical fouls and was thrown out of his side's game against the England national team. Chris Castle sank five of the subsequent six free throws to speed England to their 77-70 win. Stroth was later given a two-game ban, which will apply to whichever team he coaches in this tournament.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 32

UROLAGNIA

(U) Sexual pleasure derived from urination. 1980. *Spectator*. July 5th: "Was it his mother's fault that he suffered from urolagnia?"

VITRAIN

(V) A black, highly lustrous, and often brittle type of coal. "When a seam contains thick layers of bright coal, the soft and mostly brittle vitrain concentrates in the seams."

TEEM

(a) To drain the water off. "Morag wouldn't even teem the potatoes. She somehow felt that the whole process would ruin her soft hands."

VELETA

(c) A ballroom round dance for couples in triple time, originating in England in 1900. "Jane made me take her through a velen, and she danced so elegantly. We also danced the Gay Gordons and the Dashing White Sergeant."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1. ... Qxh3! 2. gxf3 Nf2+ 3. Kg1 Nxh3 mate.

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm)	Conditions	Runs to resort	Weather (Spm)	Last snow
AUSTRIA					
Kitzbühel	5 35	worn heavy	art	cloud	2 31/2
Schladming	15 45	worn, varied	closed	snow	0 1/1
Soil	10 45	fair powder	lar	cloud	0 1/1
St Anton	30 175	good powder	lar	snow	-6 1/1
		(Good powder skiing; high winds at altitude)			
FRANCE					
Alpe d'Huez	35 120	good powder	good	snow	-8 1/1
		(Wonderful snow and skiing on and off piste)			
Courchevel	45 110	good powder	good	snow	-3 1/1
		(Perfect snow conditions but very poor visibility)			
Mégève	15 100	good powder	lar	snow	-4 1/1
		(Vastly improved conditions, still snowing)			
Val Thorens	70 165	good powder	good	snow	-6 1/1
		(Good powder skiing on and off piste)			
ITALY					
Cervinia	20 200	good powder	good	snow	-2 1/1
		(Superb skiing everywhere; more runs opening)			
SWITZERLAND					
C Montana	50 100	good powder	closed	snow	-7 1/1
		(Snow falling at all altitudes; excellent prospects)			
McRien	30 65	good powder	good	snow	-4 1/1
		(Good skiing on open runs; Schilthorn closed at present)			
Verbier	65 150	good powder	good	snow	-2 1/1
		(Superb skiing both on and off piste)			

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper; art - artificial

Working class in no mood to help at Palace

BY OLIVER HOLT

COVENTRY CITY (5-3-2) S Ograzovic — A Pickering, J Darby, B Borrow, P Williams, S Morgan — C Jones, M Marsh, P Cook (sub: M Hall, 75min) — S Flynn, R Wegerio (sub: M Quinn, 72).

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (4-4-2) I Walker — D Austin, C Calderwood, G Mabbitt, S Cantello — D Anderson, G Popescu (sub: S Nethercott, 82), D Howells, N Barnby (sub: R Rosenzweig, 82) — J Kinsmann, E Sherringham.

Referee: G Ashby.

The goals were all the result of good players working selflessly for each other and this is what pleased Francis the most. "I looked at many tapes of Tottenham when I arrived and the goals that were going in were frightening," he said.

This went, rather surprisingly, to Reed, a defender, whereas Darlington's victory owed much to the incisive attacks of Slaven, Ganghan and Worboys. Slaven's opening goal — a jackknife header — belonged to a higher level.

If that was the start of a purple patch for the Welshman, Villa's escape will soon rather further mummify the result left City eleventh.

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we Rösler can.

The first goal was a chapter
in the history of the game.

But instead of celebrating, the managers bemoaned the points that got away. "If we get three points against Leeds on Monday, then it's been a fair haul," Brian Little, the Villa manager, said. "But one point, no points and I wouldn't

Rob Hughes sees champions who were flaunting strange colours share four goals at Southampton

looking the more intent side on Saturday, ten minutes into the second half they found themselves two goals down as City demonstrated that, whatever their other faults, they can score goals — or at least Uwe Rösler can.

If that was the start of a purple patch for the Welshman, Villa's escape will soon gather further momentum. The result left City eleventh, but with the game at

Only Scarborough lie beneath Northampton, who last week dismissed their manager, John Barnwell, of Wolves.

This went, rather surprisingly, to Reed, a defender, whereas Darlington's victory owed much to the incisive attacks of Slaven, Ganghan and Worboys. Slaven's opening goal — a jackknife header — belonged to a higher level

When Gerry Francis took over from Osvaldo Ardiles as manager in November, they were effectively in the bottom four of the FA Carling Premiership and out of the FA Cup. Now a run of eight games without defeat, coupled

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TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (4-4-2) I Walker — D Austin, C Calderwood, G Mabbutt, S Campbell — D Anderson, G Popescu (sub: S Neatcote, 82), D Howells, N Bamby (sub: R Rosenithel, 82) — J Kinsmann, E Sherringham.

Referee: G Ashby.

Cockerels begin to strut

BY PETER BALL

Having seen his side lose a two-goal lead in the space of five minutes, Horton was equally downbeat, but there was more sympathy for the Midland side. On this form it looks far too good to be stuck in its present position for long.

Little has made few changes to the team he inherited from Ron Atkinson, but those he has made suggest recovery is under way. Without losing its passing ability, the side is playing the ball forward more

The first goal was a chapter of accidents. For Villa, as Lomas's shot hit Townsend, ricocheted off Stampton and fell for the German. The second goal, too, was fortunate inasmuch as there was a suspicion that Beagrie had run the ball out of play before Houghton sent him flying on the byline. But from then on the execution was perfect as Rösel met Beagrie's free kick with an irresistible header.

"When that second goal went in, with a team in our position: you wonder if it's going to be a day when you won't get anything," Little said. City supporters know

The result left City eleventh, but with the game at Newcastle today followed by cup-ties at Notts County and Crystal Palace, their problems may only just be beginning.

"Everybody's lacking a bit of confidence," the City manager said. "I don't know why after that great result at Newcastle. I've just said to them: 'You've got to go there and win again.'"

MANCHESTER CITY (4-4-2): A Dibble; J. Foster, A. Kermeghan, J. Brighenti, T. Phelan; N. Sounness, J. L. Cornwell, G. Hargrett, P. Williams; W. Walsh, U. Spiller.

ASTON VILLA (4-2-1): R. Acker; E. Samuels, U. Elguio, S. Taitle, S. Staunton; J. J. Fashanu, B. Bennett; R. Houghton.

LEEDS UNITED (4-2-1): P. Jones; P. McGovern, G. H. 7th; D. A. Saunders, D. Yorke.

DECEMBER: J. Wormald.

Only Scarborough lie best Northampton, who last week dismissed their manager, **Chris Barrowell**, of Wolverhampton Wanderers fame. On Saturday, they conceded a goal in the very first minute and never looked like beating **Darlington**. Northampton remain a League club only because **Kidderminster** did not have the facilities to replace them; they are most likely to be so fortunate again.

Last season, **Darlington** were shipping it out with them. Now, nine points out of the last 16 have taken them to relative safety. There is no new stadium and the **Blackthorn** fighting is just about **Chris**.

[illegible]

When Gerry Francis took over from Osvaldo Ardiles as manager in November, they were effectively in the bottom four of the FA Carling Premiership and out of the FA Cup. Now a run of eight games without defeat, coupled with the removal of the six point deduction and Cup has put Wembley and a place in Europe in their sights.

The goals were all the result of good players working selflessly for each other and this is what pleased Francis the most. "I looked at many tapes of Tottenham when I arrived and the goals that were going in were frightening," he said.

COVENTRY CITY (5-3-21) **S** Ogdenov, — Pickering, J Darby, B Borrow, P Williams, Morgan — C Jones, M Marsh, P Cook (sub M Hall, 75min) — S Flynn, R Wegerlo (sub M Quinn, 72).


TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (4-4-2) 1 Walker — D Austin, C Calderwood, G Mabbutt, Campbell — D Anderson, G Popescu (sub S Nwankwo, 82), D Howells, N Barmby (sub R Rosenthal, 62) — J Kinsman, Sheringham.

Referee: G Ashby.

Discovery
GIANT
SCIENCE
EVERY DAY AT 6PM* AND 8PM
*Local Schedule

[illegible]


RESULTS



FC Porto
South
Benfica
Trisore
Guaranes
Marinho
Baixista
Rangel
Lared
Beni Mar
Bulwer
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Saguis
Farrise
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Cambridge	22	6	7	9	40	43	
Gravesend & N	19	7	4	8	22	26	
Chelmsford	16	6	4	6	26	20	
Crawley	21	6	4	11	31	48	
Hastings	16	5	8	5	20	21	
Trowbridge	18	4	8	6	21	26	

[illegible]

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RESULTS



PORTUGUESE
Guimaraes 2; T. Silva Mar 1 United
Porto 2

FC Porto
Sporting
Benfica
Torres
Gumaraes
Marinho
Bouqueta
Braga
Lazio
Beira Mar
Belenenses
Ovarim
Sagres
Farense
Amora
Gil Vicente
Uniao
Batalha

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4 Westfield 0 Eton Wick 2
0 Pappard 2 Hartley Wintney 2
d: Cranleigh v Godalming and
DCA Basingstoke v Viding
crisey v Mersham; Northme v

[illegible]

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	HOME	AWAY
P W D L F A	P W D L F A	P W D L F A

[illegible]

#	HOME					AWAY					PTS	G
	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A		
2	9	2	0	22	5	8	2	1	22	10	55	4
2	8	1	2	25	11	4	6	1	15	10	43	4
1	7	4	1	17	7	5	1	3	14	8	41	3

[illegible]

SECOND DIVISION

[illegible]

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1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676, 2677, 2678, 26

Rangers unfazed as Jensen finally hits target

Arsenal 1
Queens Park Rangers ... 3

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

IN THE 63rd minute, 20 yards out and with but one option, John Jensen let fly. The ball curled gently at first, still destined to trim the far post like so many before, but then arched dramatically into the top corner. The crowd went wild, the scorer was submerged amid a pile of disbelieving team-mates and the Arsenal had equalised.

At Highbury on Saturday, after 28 minutes and 97 and a bit matches, Jensen had scored his first goal for Arsenal, the club he joined from Bradford for £1.1 million or £1.57 million, depending on your source of information, in August 1992.

It was a momentous occasion, heightened by the interminable wait, Jensen's two near misses earlier in the game — one effort superbly saved by Roberts, the other shaving the crossbar — and the eventual classic calibre of the strike. This, surely, would rid Arsenal of their apathy.

Twelve minutes later Impey centred from the right and Allen jabbed Queens Park Rangers ahead again. A minute further on, Bardsley's hanging cross jammed Bardsley's radar and Impey nipped in to nod home from a sharp angle. End of Arsenal's fightback, end of their hopes of a first home League win since October 23.

"The best team won," George Graham, the Arsenal manager, conceded. "I was delighted to see John score, and it gave us a lift for a while, but all our best efforts came from midfield players and defenders. It wasn't enough."

Spot on, Rangers' front pair of Gallen and Ferdinand, and from the 47th minute, the cut-throat Gallen and Allen, possessed too much mobility and agility for the often static Arsenal markers. Impey, underrated, yet effervescent, provided a constant supply of good service while Meaker, another Ranger in the line-up, scoured purposefully in the second half.

"I'm thrilled," Ray Wilkins, the Rangers player-manager, said, clearly delighted with his fourth victory in eight matches since succeeding Gerry Francis at Loftus Road. "Maybe the players have at last proved to a lot of people and, more important, themselves that they can beat most of the teams in this league."

In contrast to the clarity and ingenuity of Rangers, Arsenal were pedestrian and predictable. Their passing was poor and they never adequately recovered from Gallen's sweet third-minute finish from Ferdinand's low cross.

So, welcome 1995. Seaman will return from injury to replace the jittery Barrman; Adams, the captain, will recover from the surgeon's knife; Merson may re-emerge, a cleansed soul from his self-inflicted fantasy world, and Graham, may emerge unscathed from the FA Premier League inquiry. European Cup Winners' Cup, Coca-Cola Cup and FA Cup adventures also beckon. Happy new year, George.

ARSENAL (4-4-2): V. Barman — L. Dixon, M. Seaman, S. Bould, N. Winstanley — R. Parlor, J. Jensen, S. Schuster, C. Carruthers, A. Smith (sub), A. Clarke, T. Wright.

QUEENS PARK RANGERS (4-4-2): K. Roberts — D. Bates, A. McDonald, D. Meaker, C. Wilson — M. Meaker, S. Borer, G. Hodges, A. Impey — K. Gallen, L. Ferdinand (sub), B. Allen, J. Wright.

Referee: G. Wilson.

Wilkinson brought down to earth by Liverpool

Leeds United 0
Liverpool 2

By MICHAEL HENDERSON

SUPPORTING a football team, Howard Wilkinson observed after Liverpool had beaten his with something to spare, is not a rational pastime. The Leeds United manager should know. Where he was once fazed as a latter-day Salome, who delivered Manchester United's head on a championship platter, he is now char-grilled on the coals of defeat.

Elland Road is restive. Although Wilkinson talks of the club's ability to "reclaim" itself, spectators who note the diminution of playing resources since that championship in 1992 are not united in the belief that he is the man to supervise Mission Apollo.

Neither, one gathers, are those members of the board who feel that Gordon Strachan, who retires at the

end of the season, is ripe for promotion. This match proved, satisfactorily if not overwhelmingly, that of two sides that have spent the year in realignment, Liverpool are now streamlined and confident, Leeds are stagnant.

It was Liverpool who ensured that Leeds would be champions nearly three years ago when they beat Manchester United at Anfield. Wilkinson's attempts to reinforce that team have not been inspired. Rockdale came and went. Batty and Cantona were traded to rivals. In have come Deshae, White, Palmer and Worthington, who have not got a teaspoonful of the Frenchman's talent. Strachan, 38 next month, is on his last legs. McAllister, pleasing as he is, is really a lightweight.

In his discourse, Wilkinson takes his audience on a giddy verbal tour, hoping to lose listeners in a fog of sub-clauses, or leaving them to trip over a skillfully concealed mistake. It can go something like this: "The players allowed the disappointment

of the crowd to affect their ability to compete." Or this: "We were affected by the crowd, by the scoreline. You could see confidence evaporate ... almost there to see and consequently the game, to me, finished in a manner which was nowhere near a reflection of the true ability of the two teams." Translated, this might mean we played badly but Liverpool were still a bit lucky.

Actually, they were not. There is a team in transition but it is good enough to finish in the top three and reach Wembley. The passing and movement that gave the club's best sides their distinction is returning. Everyone is happy with the ball, even James, who showed it to Mashinga when other goalkeepers would have hoisted it high into the stand, and beat him.

Earlier this season Liverpool were playing well without winning the points to show for it. In recent weeks they have been more fortunate and over Christmas they hit the beach running. Redknapp's first

league goal of the season, from a first-half free kick, and Fowler's eighteenth, 15 minutes from time, provided their third successive victory and they begin 1995 four points behind Manchester United.

Leeds were culpable each time. Lukic got his right hand to Redknapp's shot and his left to Fowler's, which was set up by Wetherall's misdirected header. It was Wetherall, charging into Rush from behind, who conceded the kick that led to the first goal. Pemberton, just as clumsy, was booked for a similar challenge on the Liverpool captain.

Rush, who is not noticeably less sharp in his 34th year, remains an outstanding player and a fine example to younger men. He caught the eye, as did Barnes, with his eagerness to be involved every kick of the way. No wonder Fowler and McManaman have come on as they have. The seriousness of purpose about Liverpool's football commands admiration.

Leeds, intermittently engaged in the first half when Mashinga went close with a nice curling shot, submitted meekly. Strachan was withdrawn and Dorogi tweaked a hamstring. Their replacements were White, that most ordinary forward, and Worthington, every inch the dogged old pro. One's first instinct was of astonishment that he is still among us, but he turns out to be something of a regular.

Almost an hour passed afterwards before Wilkinson appeared in the smart press suite, smiling. He had done "some washing" in the dressing-rooms, he said, to clean things up before they went to Aston Villa. If he is wise he will have left some Persil in the can for another day.

LEEDS UNITED (4-4-2): J. Lukic — G. Hargreaves, D. Wetherall, J. Pemberton, T. Dorogi (sub), N. Worthington, D. White — G. Strachan (sub), D. White, G. McAllister, J. Rockdale, G. Speed — N. Winstanley, P. Mashinga.

LIVERPOOL (3-5-2): D. Barnes — R. James, J. Scates, N. Rush, P. Fowler, S. Broomby — J. Redknapp, J. Barnes, S. McManaman — J. Rush, R. Fowler.

Referee: A. Webb.

Keegan's record blighted by cruel twists of fortune

There may be only a year and a half to go before the Football Association has to find a replacement for Terry Venables as England coach, given his alleged preference to move up to become the FA's technical director. The decline of Newcastle's form, with one victory in their past ten games, has done little to assist Kevin Keegan's eligibility as successor.

It has done even less for Newcastle's prospects of winning the Premiership title for the first time since 1927, though this season's wretched run of injuries is primarily to blame, absolving the manager of responsibility for the likely disappointment.

After a thoroughly undeserved 2-1 defeat at Carrow Road, in which it was calculated that Norwich had only eight minutes of possession in the second half, Keegan refused to be downhearted, but admitted his men must probably wait another year for honours.

"That was the best we've played for two months and we got nothing," he said. "The championship has gone out of the window. We've varied between brilliant and ordinary. To win the league you have to be consistent, and that's something we haven't shown."

"I'm thrilled," Ray Wilkins, the Rangers player-manager, said, clearly delighted with his fourth victory in eight matches since succeeding Gerry Francis at Loftus Road. "Maybe the players have at last proved to a lot of people and, more important, themselves that they can beat most of the teams in this league."

In contrast to the clarity and ingenuity of Rangers, Arsenal were pedestrian and predictable. Their passing was poor and they never adequately recovered from Gallen's sweet third-minute finish from Ferdinand's low cross.

So, welcome 1995. Seaman will return from injury to replace the jittery Barrman; Adams, the captain, will recover from the surgeon's knife; Merson may re-emerge, a cleansed soul from his self-inflicted fantasy world, and Graham, may emerge unscathed from the FA Premier League inquiry. European Cup Winners' Cup, Coca-Cola Cup and FA Cup adventures also beckon. Happy new year, George.

ARSENAL (4-4-2): V. Barman — L. Dixon, M. Seaman, S. Bould, N. Winstanley — R. Parlor, J. Jensen, S. Schuster, C. Carruthers, A. Smith (sub), A. Clarke, T. Wright.

QUEENS PARK RANGERS (4-4-2): K. Roberts — D. Bates, A. McDonald, D. Meaker, C. Wilson — M. Meaker, S. Borer, G. Hodges, A. Impey — K. Gallen, L. Ferdinand (sub), B. Allen, J. Wright.

Referee: G. Wilson.

David Miller sees an exceptional display of goalkeeping virtually end Newcastle's League title hopes



"Maybe Manchester United and Blackburn haven't played as well as us, but they haven't played as poorly recently. You need to be somewhere in between."

"You can't afford to have the sort of run we've been having if you are going to be serious title contenders. No disrespect to Norwich, but these are the sort of places you should come to and win if you want to win the championship."

Newcastle have indeed been an exhilarating side since Keegan, together with Terry McDermott, took charge in 1992. Last season they finished third, scoring a blistering 82 goals, and when I saw them at home to Chelsea in September, winning 4-1, they looked as if few would hold them. Keegan had now strengthened the side with the addition of the defender, Albert from Anderlecht, for £25 million, and the Swiss Hotspur, from St. Gallen, for a bargain £30,000.

But an appalling sequence of injuries followed, including, at different times, Malcolm Allen, the Wales forward (all season), Bracewell (for the rest

of the season), Clark, Cole, Fox, Howey, Lee, Peacock, Sellers, and in training last Friday, Albert, with a torn knee ligament that will keep him out for the rest of the season.

Yet even without off-field problems Keegan was needing to confirm his own consistency in the managerial arena if he were to be a serious contender for England coach in the future, never mind his outstanding playing record. This had included some reservations about his temperament as captain.

Yet as manager at St James' Park he has seldom been less than sunny and positive and it is unfortunate that this season has been knocked sideways by misfortunes outside his control, unless Newcastle can win the FA Cup for the first time in 40 years. It could still be said that, at present lying fourth in spite of all, Keegan has done well to hold his squad together so far.

On Saturday he was ungrudging towards Norwich, who owed their victory almost exclusively to an exceptional, if at times fortuitous, performance by Andy Marshall, their 19-year-old deputy in goal. "He had a fantastic match and good luck to him," Keegan said. "The boy saved everything. That's how careers are born."

Marshall, a former apprentice, had come on as substitute last Monday at Nottingham when Gunn broke an ankle. He had been at fault with Forest's winning goal, but now made amends, on his home debut in front of a full house of 21,000, with a display that had an equal measure of skill and good fortune and which benefited away from Newcastle's inadequate finishing.

"He [Marshall] grew in stature as the game went on," John Doshan, the Norwich manager said. Marshall is expected to continue against Liverpool today in spite of Simon Tracey having been signed on a month's loan from Sheffield United.

As Keegan admitted, Newcastle made a sloppy start — "with a midway kick-off, maybe some of the lads had their



Former team-mates, Fox, left, and Goss renew acquaintance at Carrow Road

minds on New Year's Eve parties," he jested — so that Norwich were one up after a minute and two up after ten. The defence was dazing when a free kick by Crook was headed home by Adams, and then Ward, struck by a mishit shot by Milligan, quickly reacted to drive the ball home for his fourth goal in five matches.

Now Norwich, who are well able to sit back on a lead, defended securely, penetrated only when Ullathorne fouled Kitson five minutes before half-time and Fox briskly scored from the penalty spot

for Newcastle's first goal in five hours' play. That seemed to be the springboard for a second-half revival by Newcastle, but it was now that Marshall came into his own with a string of eight saves from Kitson, Lee, Venison, and the luckless Cole, who has now gone seven matches without scoring. This, as much as anything, is the key to Newcastle's decline.

It seemed Cole must score when he evaded Polston, but Marshall somehow saved with his legs and then had the luck to find the ball bouncing back into his arms when

Beresford struck a post in the 76th minute.

"We were creative, and the players gave everything they had but you expect to put chances away, and we didn't," Keegan said. Norwich's central defender, Newsome, reflected that they had "not been under such pressure all season".

NORWICH CITY (4-4-2): A. Marshall — D. Burch, J. Newsome, J. Polson, R. Ullathorne — M. Milligan, I. Goss (sub), R. Newman, T. Ward, M. Adams, J. Goss — A. Ward, M. Sheron (sub), J. Curson, S. G. Newsome.

NEWCASTLE UNITED (4-4-2): P. Smith — B. Venison, S. Howey, D. Peacock, J. Beresford — R. Fox, R. Lee, P. Broomby, S. Watson (sub), L. Clark, S. — P. Nelson, A. Cole.

Referee: R. Hill.

Clubs on minor stage face major problems

Peterborough United 2
Cambridge United 2

By KEITH PIKE

DWINDLING support, embarrassing defeats, trailing in the opposition's wake, the passing of 1994 will not have been mourned at London Road. And then there are Peterborough and Cambridge who, like John Major — a guest on Saturday — face 1995 with little more than survival in mind.

There will, eventually, be a new Prime Minister, and there may, just as soon, be a new premier, too, and it is that which threatens clubs like those in opposition here and so many of their colleagues in the lower reaches of the Endleigh Insurance League. A second division elite with no relegation — Premier League II: *The Son of Gred*, perhaps — would, inevitably, mean the death knell for one or two famous, faded football clubs.

"The Football League have given us a reassurance, personally signed by Gordon McKeag, the chairman, telling us that it is definitely not going to happen," Steve Greenall, the Cambridge secretary, said, "but it is the talk of the boardrooms, and the rumblings are that everything is not going to be OK. If the big clubs want it to happen, I think it will happen, and it would be devastating for the likes of Cambridge and Peterborough."

And Oxford United, Swansea City, Preston North End ... the list of those clubs who would not be on the Premier League mailing list, whose grounds are substandard or whose potential level of support is deemed inadequate, would take in many of those who have had their seasons of fame.

If permanent exclusion from the game's hierarchy looms, then now, most certainly, is not the time to be moderate. Two seasons ago, Peterborough and Cambridge were in the first division, from where the bulk of the clubs for the extended Premiership would be drawn. Both have since been relegated — indeed, both may struggle to survive in the second this season — but, for them, the timing of the fall has been particularly bad.

Then there are Wycombe Wanderers, more recent additions to a league Peterborough and Cambridge themselves joined only in the last 35 years, and their like. "The mission of every club is to get to the top," Greenall said. "If the incentive is taken away, if a club at grass roots is told, 'No matter how much you spend on your ground, no matter how good your team, you will not be able to get to the peak', then the game could die on its feet."

Applly, perhaps, this one on Saturday did, too. Four goals and some low-key local rivalry failed to reduce a match in which the ability to control the ball and pass it to a team-mate was rare.

Symmetry in the scoreline was reflected in the goalscorers. Charley, Peterborough's captain and best player, scored first and last with a lob and a late diving header. Lillis got both for Cambridge in between.

PETERBOROUGH UNITED (4-4-2): F. Barber — K. Ashby, G. Brown, S. Durr, A. Sperring, M. Eddon, A. Kelly, D. Morrison, R. Charley, A. Furrell, L. Henry (sub), S. Farrell, S. Greenall.

CAMBRIDGE UNITED (3-4-1-2): J. Sherwell — A. Jelliffe, D. D'Sha, J. Girdleick, M. Joseph, M. Hys, J. Fowler, D. Barry, C. Corran, J. Huxley (sub), D. Hay, T. J. Liles.

Referee: J. Kirby.

Golac's schemes seem foreign to Tannadice

Football affords the rare opportunity to combine contemplation with desperation. After the 4-0 defeat by Hibernian at Easter Road on Saturday, Dundee United, who play Aberdeen this afternoon, must begin a frantic quest for points while also finding time for soul-searching. For the second season in a row the club can feel the relegation swamp sucking at its ankles.

There are footballing errors to be analysed and players to be scolded, but it is the very structure of United that requires extended examination. All the issues converge in discussion of the manager, Ivan Golac, who was appointed in 1992. Recent coverage has given the impression that, in the manner of a game of snap, he and the directors will test one another's reflexes. Can he slay down his letter of resignation before they give him the sack?

Perhaps matters are not quite so lurid, but the board may feel obliged to act if the sinner is the foot of the

premier division continues. In any case, Golac's contract with United expires in the summer and, given the tense tone of statements from Tannadice, neither party is eager to renew it. Press rumouration on the identity of his successor is underway, with claims that Tommy McLean, brother of the United chairman, Jim, could be lured from his position with Heart of Midlothian.

The weak results during Golac's tenure strengthen speculation. His effervescent personality can be charming and even dotty proclamations that inform us that United will win the league or that his Trinidadian discovery, Jerren Nixon, will imminently be worth £10 million have their uses. They are gestures of defiance against the drabness and defeatism found elsewhere in Scottish football.

It was surely an infusion of his bravado that assisted United to their admirable victory over Rangers in the Tennent's Scottish Cup final last season. Yet, most of the

time, his side has been wrecked and at present occupies eighth place in the table. There is a tendency to blame about the need for the fresh ideas of foreign coaches. In practice, however, few require their work permits

KEVIN MCCARRA



Scottish commentary

for long. The cosmopolitan Dr Jozsef Venglos, one recalls, lasted a bare year with Aston Villa. It may be that the manager's position is the wrong one for such men. Battle-hardened old pros are hardly the people best equipped to absorb new thinking about the game. Continental figures might

have a greater chance of altering British football if they were, instead, given a more diffuse role in organising youth development programmes at clubs.

These men do not even have the benefit of local knowledge as they grapple with the league programme. Golac has been too busy flailing to spare time for the reshaping of United. However, the manager implied last week that he has not been given enough scope by his employers.

"I have been frustrated," he said, "in my attempts to bring in players and sell others. I believe I should get on with that part of the job without going to the board all the time."

Jim McLean's wistful response was to suggest that Golac should share his thoughts with the club's directors rather than the press. The chairman has been known to dish out some searing invective to any journalist who suggests there is antagonism between himself and his manager. Even so, it

is now clear that Golac, at least, is unhappy with the division of responsibilities. Bringing in a new manager will not by itself solve that structural problem. Any replacement of worth would surely require greater independence than McLean seems willing to permit. The chairman, of course, worked extraordinary feats in the 22 years when he was United manager. Now, however, his intransigent style threatens to become an obstacle to the club to which he has devoted his life.

One of the many men previously to have been embroiled in dispute with McLean gave a commanding performance for Motherwell on Saturday. The Fir Park side did lose 3-1 at home to Rangers, who now enjoy a virtually massless lead, but Miodrag Krivokapic, at 35, became virtually the first premier division manager to reduce Brian Laudrup from the preternatural to the merely effective.

Robinson to the rescue

Charlton Athletic 1
Millwall 1

By ALAN RUDD

FORGET raw eggs and hair of the dog, the perfect new year's hangover cure is a noon kick-off on a crisp, clear day. This was the only fixture yesterday: a cunning device by the local police to avoid the crowd disturbances that so often mar this London derby.

An almost uneventful first half did enough to sober everyone into a fit state to appreciate a scintillating second period where the action flowed from end to end and the final outcome always hung in the balance.

Charlton Athletic began the match, as they do so often, with some nice ideas but very little muscle. They should have taken the lead after 16 minutes when Leaburn missed an open goal after Mortimer had worked an opening down the left flank.

Whyte, too, wasted an excellent opportunity, heading a Bennett cross straight at Kel-

ler in the Millwall goal. Charlton's pretty, passive and gentle lay-offs were quickly getting them nowhere.

To underline the point Rae stepped in with a fierce, accurate 25 yard strike, the directness of which stunned the entire Charlton defence, including Salmon in goal, to give Millwall the lead.

Millwall had won their six previous matches and looked certain to be heading for a seventh. However, the home side emerged after the interval with armour plating and a glint in its eyes.

Seven minutes into the second half they equalised. Robinson heading in Robson's cross from the left. Alan Curbishley, joint manager of Charlton, said it was the battling spirit of his team that had pleased him the most, having seen the side "out-fought physically" too often at home.

Suddenly, both sets of players forgot they had missed out on their New Year's Day roast lunch and determinedly pressed for the three points. Robinson came close when his

strike, after the ball had been cleared from a corner, found Kellar unguarded, but the American goalkeeper dived to his left in the nick of time.

Rae attempted, at 76 minutes, to make an impact with another long-range shot, this time left-footed, but hooked the ball wide. A minute later Whyte lobbed Kellar from 25 yards but hit the crossbar.

A couple of minutes from time, Mortimer fell inside the area under a challenge from Dawes but Kenneth Leach, the referee, opted to give Dawes the benefit of the doubt. Even Curbishley thought Mortimer might have been "looking for it a little bit".

Honours, then, remained even, although Millwall remain the form side of the Endleigh Insurance League first division.

CHARLTON ATHLETIC (4-4-2): M. Salmon — M. Bennett, P. Gieppie, McClean, T. Mortimer — J. Robinson (sub), G. Nelson (76min), K. Jones, C. Walsh (sub), S. Newton, S. Whyte, M. Robson — C. Leachum, D. Whyte.

MILLWALL (4-4-2): K. Kellar — J. Dawes, T. Whyte, D. Webb, B. Thacker — M. C. Shaw, J. Van Allen — R. Cadogan (sub), J. Kerr, R. D. Mitchell.

Referee: J. Lynch.

Make We
strong



In fact, the wider the difference the better. Cardiff had beaten Neath by nearly 40 points in September.

The bigger Cardiff seem to be and the faster their reputation leads the way, the more Neath seem to like it. Thus, the team from the capital city, where all roads and ambitions lead, were heading for the 1995 title. Neath, on the other hand, where all motorways seem to bypass and whose inhabitants tend to feel neglected, rubbed their hands

Losing by a goal, a try and three penalties to a penalty has allowed Pontypridd to draw level with Cardiff with 22 points at the top of the first division. Cardiff remain in the lead only by virtue of having scored nine more tries. But Ponty-

Two Neath players, however, lifted the gloom. Arwel Thomas is a slip of a boy at 19, but is already a delightful player. He has a mature head. Physically, there is not much of him, but he seems to thrive on a big occasion. Here he scored 16 points. His try resulting from an interception, showed a sharp anticipation when Cardiff were beginning to build a rare momentum.

The other was the loose-head prop, John Davies. He looks ungainly but he shows firm grip in the scrum. He has learnt also how to tear the ball away from the opposition. He is to be found in the loose doing fiddly things like being in the right place and passing at the right time. He is often seen, too, picking up the ball from his toes and driving. It is not easy to say this of a prop, but he draws your attention and is a joy to watch.

SCORERS: Neath: Tries: Thomas, Jones.
Conversion: Thomas. Penalty goals: Thomas (3).
Cardiff: Penalty goal: Davies.

NEATH: P. Thorburn, C. Higgs, L. Davies, H. Woodland, R. Jones; A. Thomas; D. Llewellyn; M. Morgan, B. Williams; J. Davies, A. Karmann, Glyn Llewellyn, Gareth Llewellyn, C. Scott, C. Wylid.

CARDIFF: C. John; S. Hill, M. Hall, C. Lusty, N. Walker; A. Davies, A. Booth, D. Joseph, H. Bevan, P. Sagarininos, M. Barnett, S. Roy, J. Walekand, M. Budd, H. Sicone.

Referee: P. Boland (Cardiff).

David Hands on an 18-17 triumph for Australia that maintained a proud record at schoolboy level

Scottish officials see this as an unusually low representa-

The Scots played a remarkably combative game. Led by two outstanding flankers, Alan Gladstone and Nick Outlaw, they carried the game to their opponents in so positive a manner that Scotland led until midway through the second half. There may be a bright future, too, for Gordon Ross, the little stand-off half from George Heriot's School.

The Australians fell foul of the schoolboy law differences between Britain and Australia. A tighter interpretation of playing the ball in the tackle pulled them up time and again and all too frequently they fell offside around the scrum, an area where the offside line in Australia is the centre of the scrum, not the ball. That, and an unusual number of handling errors, helped the Scots establish an 11-0 lead through Charles Keenan's early try. Ross's dropped goal from a

Yet Australia stole a heel against the head, too, which gave Sticherbina a try on half-time, and they would have had a second through Manuel Edmonds had not they been recalled for obstruction. Not that Edmonds was to be denied since he rounded off an sustained attack to give his side a 15-14 lead, only to see Mallinson snatch it back with his second penalty in the final minute of proper time.

SCORERS: Scottish Schools: Tyr. Keenan Penalty goals: Mallinson (3). Dropped goals: Ross, Australian Schools: Tref. Scherban, Edmonds. Convertors: Fladley Penalty goals: Fladley (2).

SCOTTISH SCHOOLS: D. Mallinson (George Watson's), J. Craig (St. Aloysius's), A. Bulloch (Hutcheson's GS), S. Hannah (Merchiston Castle), C. Keenan (Fettes), G. Ross (George Heriot's), C. Black

AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLS: M. Bartholomew (Brisbane State HS, 3); J. Hughes (Sydney HS), F. Fladby (Nudgee School, Brisbane HS), B. Fagan (Joseph's, NSW); M. Edwards (Emmelle), D. Burrell (The Scots), S. Hardman (Nudgee), D. Flynn (Nudgee), B. Mincham (The Kings), T. Eaton (Marist, Parramatta), T. Bowman (The Scots), M. Abbott (Finley GS), S. Kasparowicz (Brisbane State HS, captain), T. Gillespie (Woodroffe HS, captain), T. Glenister (Brisbane HS), J. McPherson (St. Mary's, NSW), J. McHugh (St. John's, NSW), replaced by Radford (St. Joseph's, NSW, AS); Burrell replaced by D. Cronin (Brisbane State HS, 5).

Yet one moment in this game underlined the intensity of the league among the leading clubs in the Principality. The moment did not follow one of Dale McInosh's bullocking runs, which are accompanied by shouts of "Chief, Chief", a reference to his status in Maori culture. Nor was it when James Alvis, a sturdy prop forward, was declared the man of the match. Nor, even, was it for either of the tries scored by Neil Jen-

this stage to say this: it isn't half good to watch.

SCORES: Pontypriid: Triste: Manley (3), Jenkins (2), Thomas, G Jones, J Lewis, AMc. Conversions: Jenkins (3). Penalty goal: Jenkins. Durnwin: Penalty goal: Lloyd.

PONTYPRIDD: G Jones, D Manley, S Lewis, J Bards, C Thomas, N Jenkins, J Lewis, J P Jones, P J Jones, M Jones, Blyder, G Prosser, M Rowley, P Thomas, D McIntosh. McIntosh replaced by M Lloyd (17min); Bards replaced by N Jones (22).

DURNWIN: D Evans, P Hopkins, M Thomas, W Lloyd, D Richards, W Booth, N Lloyd, A Piper, H Davis, K Allen, C Davies, D Nibbo, A Gregory, R Greenwood, P Morris. Morris replaced by S McIntosh (40); Davies replaced by J Bowden (73).

Referee: C Thomas (Stewart). 80.

1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676, 2677, 2678, 26

BY JOHN HOPKINS

declared the man of the match. Nor, even, was it for either of the tries scored by Neil Jen-

Thomas, W Lloyd, U Richards; W Booth, N Lloyd; A Piper, H Davis, K Allen, C Davies, D Niblo, A Gregory, R Greenwood, P Morris. Allen replaced by R Furness (44); Morris replaced by S Maitland (46); Davies replaced by J Bowden (73).
Referee: C Thomas (Stewart).

BY BARRY TROWBRIDGE

SLIDE
EVERY DAY AT

INGL
PM' AND 8PM
"Exact Substit"

Authors: R. C. Davies, E. Anderson, J. Bonney, N. Hill, A. Jones, M. Birch, G. Beccombe, P. Butler, C. Protherough, N. Weaver, M. Proctor, G. Watson, M. Sympet, A. Cahill, S. Owen.
 Referee: G. Hughes (Manchester).

By A CORRESPONDENT

throughout. played wisely with the wind in the first half and popped up all over the place. It was never going to be easy for him playing against an opponent as stub-

TREACHERY: D Lloyd; J Rizzo; K Orell; A Hammers; A Harries; D St John; C Bridges; A Dobbs; K Jones; M Powell; S Evans; A Gwynn; J Burnett; O Lloyd; L Jones. Double replaced by T Orell (41); K Jones replaced by L Gibby (50). L Jones replaced by S Egan (76).
Referee: H Lewis (WRL)

great boilerhouse
served Welsh beer

lads, but they lack the necessary bulk and experience to make an impression in

good support play. However, assessing the true merits of the Swansea back row in an international sense will not

Jones, D Lynch, B Taylor; J Williams (72) De
Mald; J Grandon, R Thorne, R Phillips, S
Ellen, L Musk, D Evans, M Taylor, G Taylor
M Taylor replaced by L Isaac (51); Thorne
replaced by G Currens (78)
Radnor: R Davies (Dunvant).

THE
Discovery
CHANNEL

G I A N T
SCIENCE

EVERY DAY AT 6PM* AND 8PM

*check listings

ingertips

scoring gl
poses vital
questions on
health of game

miss big ma

SPORT 23

John Goodbody, in his build-up to the London Marathon in April, meets two women who fulfilled their potential

Make way for the stronger sex

Women are the stronger sex. The only Briton to have swum the English Channel three times without stopping is female. At one stage women held the 24-hour cycling endurance record and the best performance for the Three Peaks race of Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike and Snowdon. Women are also more likely than men to finish the 1995 Nine Sweet London Marathon on April 2. Chris Brasher, the founder of the event, believes that women simply have greater physical and psychological reserves.

Women can stand pain better than men. Certainly in my family, it is my wife Shirley (a former Wightman Cup tennis player), who is the strongest," he says. That is a real accolade, as anyone who has become entangled with the barbed-wire will of Brasher on a training run will testify.

Samon Martin, winner of the 1993 London marathon, agrees. "Women are naturally better endurance athletes. They are born for the labour of childbirth."

Two female runners, who fully exemplify this belief, are Joyce Smith, the revered first lady of British athletics, and Danielle Sanderson, the Cinderella of the marathon, a jogger who became transformed into an international athlete, not by a magic wand but by natural ability and intelligent training. Both have shown how disciplined, careful exercise can allow a woman to fulfil her physical potential, despite the claims of jobs and families and social pressures.

Joyce, 57, has been a pioneer of women's long-distance running. She was born two decades too



early because the long-distance races, at which she excelled, were added to the international programme only gradually. Some people, you see, used to have the quaint view that women were not tough.

She represented Britain at 800 metres against Italy in 1960, ran in the 1,500 metres when it was first included in the Olympics in 1972 and took a bronze medal in the 3,000 metres, when that event was first staged at the European championships in 1974. She rounded off her top-class career by winning the first two London marathons and competing in the 1984 Olympics at 46.

She still runs, 15-20 miles a week, from her home in Watford. "It is not important to me any more. However, the longer you can keep fit, the healthier it is. And I do still have the odd race for the veterans," she says. When she competes, athletics fans are as privileged as those who watched a farewell performance of Marlene Dietrich.

From her elevated plateau of

fitness, she used to work on a 13-week plan for a marathon. "For everyone attempting the event, there should be a gradual increase of mileage. You must have a plan." She thinks that people planning their first marathon should aim at time-on-the-foot rather than distance completed. This is the policy we have adopted with our schedule on this page.

During cold weather, she will wear a thermal top. When there is snow and ice on the ground, she prefers to train on grass as much as possible.

Joyce and Danielle also advocate hill-running, for its strengthening benefits. However, do not push yourself too hard if you have not tried this before and also be careful about not to jar yourself as you come down the slope.

Danielle is an example to all. She never took part in athletics until she was 26. Even the proximity of Hilly Road was not sufficiently inspiring when she was reading physics at Oxford University. However, when she began lecturing on computers for the consultancy group SEMA, she told her students that they had to set themselves goals. "I thought I should have a goal of my own. It was then that I thought of running a marathon," she says.

She knew so little about the sport that she did not even know how far it was round an athletics track. She ran her first half-marathon in plimsolls and cut-off jeans. She ran her first marathon in 3hr 7min 52sec, off 30 miles training a week, and then improved with virtually every race to become the second Briton home in the 1993 World Marathon Cup, when she did 2hr 37min 26sec.

One of her favourite sessions is a workout of a warm-up and then 2x three miles, with a rest of two minutes between the fast runs. This, she believes, helps with improving her sustained pace. For less experienced runners, the rest should be longer.

She has also benefited from using a heart-rate monitor. A good one can cost about £100 and gives a reading on a watch-like recorder on the wrist.

Danielle's remarkably swift rise to success has been achieved while she has had a child, Joseph. She ran eight miles a day until the day she went into labour and then restarted training 11 days after giving birth.

Sometimes one wonders whether men recognise the determination of the stronger sex.



Danielle Sanderson, left, and Joyce Smith find time to run despite the claims of jobs, families and social pressures

Run, sister, run

Women often do not like running alone. They prefer company. It is not only safer but it is also more congenial, especially for those who are sometimes embarrassed by exercising in public.

"It is the net-curtain problem. Some women are worried by having acres of cellulite and by the shouts of lorry drivers," says Alison Turnbull, who 11 years ago founded the Sisters Network to bring female runners together.

Running magazine, the predecessor of *Runner's World*, published an appeal expecting 70 replies. They got 900. A brilliant idea was born. "We wanted to get

women, who did run, to help women, who didn't," Alison says. *Running* magazine acted like a dating agency, arranging for suitable candidates from the same locality to meet each other.

"It is a solidarity thing. It helps you to get out training if you know that someone else is waiting for you. Usually, the best 'big sisters' were the ones nearest to the beginners in ability."

Although most women started exercising because they wanted to lose weight, surveys found that

own, here are a few basic rules: wear tracksuit trousers; preferably run during daylight; tell someone at home where you are going and for how long; avoid areas where there are few people; do not make eye contact with anyone and try not to get too close to other people; if you still have a concern about the area in which you run consider carrying a personal alarm, as Danielle Sanderson does.

Best of all, join the Reebok/Runners' World Sisters Network. Write for your nearest contact to: The national co-ordinator, Rosemary Arber, 48 Clarence Road, Windsor, Berks SL4 5AU, enclosing a sae.

Midlands pipped in quest for two titles

By SIOBHAN FRANKLIN

The South West won the under-18 and the Midlands held on to the under-16 trophy despite having lost their last match in the youth divisional hockey tournament in Bristol on Saturday.

Midlands were hoping for a double triumph, but nothing went right for them at the older level and they failed to add to the ten points they had from the previous two days.

Their trouble began when they lost 2-2 to North East. Goals by Keith Reesby and Fraser Easty sent Midlands into a 2-0 lead, which seemed likely to be increased from a penalty stroke, but Stuart Williams was wide of the target.

North East hit back with goals by Chris Dunn and Manfred Kochar, eventually to win the match with a late goal from a short corner by Alan Frost.

So, everything depended on the last match of the round-robin series, in which South West beat Midlands 1-0 with a goal in the dying minutes from Jeremy Sutton from a chance set up by Chris Aldridge.

The highlight of the day was the 5-0 victory for the South East under-16 team over North East, with Peter Welles of Teddington scoring four goals and Simon Giffins of Canterbury, three. However, the glory had already been stolen by Midlands, who started the day with a 4-0 victory over North East.

The final under-16 match between West and North West was abandoned at half-time because the pitch was waterlogged.

Andrew Longmore finds darts' family following is beside the point

Punters arrow in on sporting sideshow

The lady on the ticket desk was right. The Circus Tavern is impossible to miss. It stands alone, ostracised, plastered with fluorescent posters advertising The Searchers and Mike Reid, just before the Esso garage off the A13 in Purfleet. Spiritually, rather than geographically, the heart of Essex, the venue for the Sunday Sport Christmas party and the world darts championship, run by the World Darts Council and not to be confused with the traditional world championship, organised by the British Darts Organisation and held in Frimley Green this week.

The former ends today, coinciding with the early stages of the latter, but there will be precious little difference between the two. One is sponsored by cars, the other by cigarettes. Both will be played by well-fed men with moustaches and bangles against a backdrop of well-fed men with moustaches and bangles amid an atmosphere part working men's social club, part stag-night.

For the uninitiated, there are certain rules. A score of 60 or less is followed by a cry of "come on, Bob", or Bill, or Eric or whoever is throwing next, an instinctive cover-up for such an embarrassingly bad score. One hundred is regarded as OK, nothing out of the ordinary but worthy of a gentle round of applause. The decibels rise steadily from 140 to climax at the magical maximum of "180" when you are allowed to leap to your feet and punch the air. Tony Green, the originator of the proper two-octave "180", was not at the Circus, but there were plenty of imitators, none with quite the same vocal range or sense of timing.

The politics of the darts schism has largely escaped me, but I can guess it has something to do with dissatisfaction among many of the players that the mini-boom of the Eighties, when, for a heart-stopping moment, Eric and Jocky and that nice John Lowe became household names and darts threatened to follow snooker's path to television

riches, has ended in tears. Someone, somewhere has ordered darts to jazz itself up. And so, at the appropriately named Circus Tavern, we had boxing-style presentations. Scottish pipers for Jocky Wilson and an Irish jig for Tom Kirby (don't ask, I didn't know and there is no programme to tell you about him), middle-of-the-road rock music for the near-50-year old, but still very metal, John Lowe, and heavy metal for the long-haired aspirant, Dennis Smith, as they process through the unmassed ranks of the spectators to the stage, preceded by pretty girls wearing very little and choreographed by the man from Sky Television in a bid to restore some identity to the sport.

In fact, the prelude was the best bit. The darts itself was so dead it was no wonder the whole audience resorted to drink to pass the time. Only those within six feet of the oche could see what was really

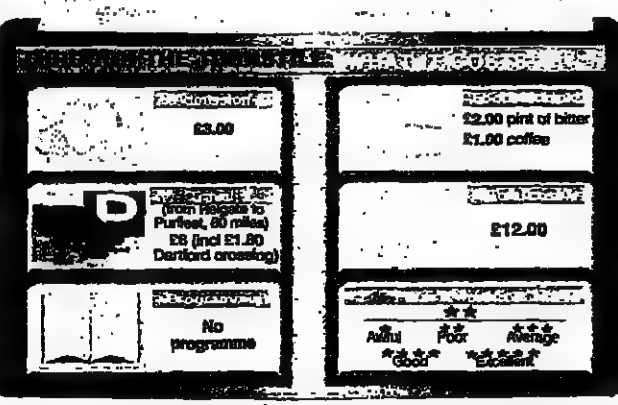
going on. The rest of us had to watch the television sets hanging from the ceiling, which showed a thousand slow-motion replays — there is nothing more absurd than a slowmo replay of a dart in flight, believe me — but did not tell you the score. I presume everybody kept score in their heads because the electronic scoreboard was invisible, too.

To be fair, the entrance fee of £3 gave a clue. Darts has nothing to do with sport nor even with selling pints of beer (£2) or plates of pie and chips (£2) but everything to do with the Ladbrokes office tucked discreetly into the side of the lounge bar. I should have known when the compere announced in serious tones that there had been significant money for Tom Kirby and when the menus on each table turned out to be betting odds. And there I was thinking what a friendly, cosy little world it was. All that faithful support from family and friends. Pure money talk; as fleeting as the pound in your pocket. The world darts championship is a

giant betting-office. Dogs from Caiford, racing from Folkestone, darts from Purfleet, flies up the wall. Roll up...

Of the darts itself, the less written the better. Jocky, his belly sticking out like East Anglia, should have let the piper play. He scored 21 in one turn and lost 3-0 to Lowe. "As they sing at the electronic scoreboard was invisible, too."

In between the pastiche, real skill shone like the camera lights. Phil Taylor, the pre-tournament favourite, scored nine 180s in demolishing a man called Downs who came from America and looked passably like an athlete. Jocky completed a 106 finish quicker than the cameraman's eye. "Two of the greatest sportsmen you will see anywhere in the world," the compere said of Lowe and Wilson. No trace of irony. Next week, the Circus features something called hypnosis comedy. Or maybe that was the darts.



Autissier recalls ordeal

AS THE British yachtswoman, Niah Vaughan, reached Sydney to complete the second stage of the BOC Challenge solo round-the-world race yesterday, with little more than a broken boom to show for the 7,000-mile voyage from Cape Town, the Australian Navy was airlifting Isabelle Autissier from her yacht deep in the Southern Ocean five days after she had been dismasted for the second time during the voyage (Barry Fickling writes).

After the RAF helicopter transferred the Frenchwoman from her stricken yacht 900 miles south of Adelaide to the frigate Darwin, which had taken four days to reach her from Perth, Autissier told race organisers what happened when her 60ft vessel was

rolled over on December 28. "The wind was blowing 50 knots and I was making eight knots with my sails down," she said.

"I was inside the boat and could hear the noise of a very big wave coming. The boat did a big roll. It went right over through 360 (degrees). I fell on the bulkhead, then on the ceiling, then on the other bulkhead. When I opened my eyes the boat was full of water. If I had been on deck, I would have been washed away."

The roll broke the yacht's steering and mast and left the deck with a five-metre square hole in it. "Everything was wet and full of water. Lots of things disappeared in the waves. The aft compartment was full of water and I had to shut the bulkhead to keep the

rest of the boat safe and floating," Autissier added.

"First of all, I tried to empty the boat. I thought I might try to go on, but the steering system was destroyed and I was tired from sailing for three weeks with a jury rig. With the state of my boat and my personal state, I knew it would not be safe to try and get to Sydney, so two hours after the rollover, I started my emergency beacons."

So ends one of the most dramatic rescues in the history of ocean racing. Autissier is expected to be airlifted to Adelaide early today and is making plans already to try to salvage her boat, *Beauveuil Poirou Charentais II*, and repair it in time to rejoin the race on the third stage round Cape Horn starting on January 29.

Poor start stirs Panthers

NOTTINGHAM Panthers start the new year sitting proudly at the top of the premier division of ice hockey and it is hard to see anyone dislodging them (Norman de Mesquita writes).

They did have something of a shock when Milton Keynes Kings scored twice in the first five minutes of their game in Nottingham, but the Panthers led 3-2 by the end of the first period, were 11-4 ahead by the end of the second, and the final score of 14-5 gave a fair indication of their overall superiority.

Randall Weber scored five of their goals and Simon Hunt, who must surely figure in Great Britain's plans for this season, scored four.

Edinburgh Racers also found themselves two goals

behind in their away game with Fife Flyers. They were 4-2 down after one period, but recovered with five goals in 12 minutes and went on to win 10-8 with Tony Hand assisting on seven of the goals.

Cardiff Devils were never behind in their home game against Bracknell Bees and, when they took a 5-1 lead after only eight minutes, Lloyd Clifford, who had conceded all five goals while facing only ten shots, was replaced by Simon Burns.

It made little difference and the Devils ran out 17-5 winners; it is now two years since they were beaten in a home league match.

In the first division, Chelmsford Chieftains sprang the surprise of the

Lowe sets highest standards in title bid

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

JOHN LOWE found his best form on Saturday in defeating Dennis Smith, of Swindon, 4-0 in the quarter-finals of the Proton Cars world darts championship at Purfleet.

Lowe, 50, from north Derbyshire, who before joining the breakaway World Darts Council (WDC) won the Embassy world championship three times, has not lost a set in three matches at the tournament.

He beat two other former Embassy world champions, Dennis Priestley and Jocky Wilson, in group matches, each by 3-0, and was far superior to Smith on Saturday.

Lowe, who is not included among the eight seeded players, was playing Phil Taylor in the semi-finals last night.

Taylor, who also won the world title before the WDC was formed, defeated Bob Anderson 4-1 on Saturday, taking a 3-0 lead before conceding the fourth set. However, Taylor, who scored nine 180s, quickly regained control to secure a convincing victory.

In the other semi-final, Rod Harrington, the second seed, from Chelmsford, was playing the No 3 seed, Peter Evison.

Dave Askey, 31, an England international, came back from two sets down to beat the top seed, Steve Beaton, 3-2 in the first round of the Embassy world championship at the Lakeside Country Club in Frimley Green, Surrey, yesterday.

Last year Beaton, 30, from Leamington Spa, also fell victim in the first round, to Nick Gedney, by the same score after winning the first two sets.

FOR THE RECORD

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE
NFL: Wild-card play-offs. First round:
Tampa Bay 17, Houston Oilers 16.
Central 12, American Conference 17.
Miami 27, Kansas City 17.

American Football Conference

East division
Miami 10, 6 369 327
New England 10, 6 361 312
Indianapolis 9, 8 307 330
Buffalo 10, 6 304 320
Pittsburgh 10, 6 304 320

Central division

Pittsburgh 12, 4 316 234
Cleveland 11, 5 340 304
Cincinnati 13, 13 276 308
Houston 2, 14 226 362

West division

San Diego 11, 5 351 306
Kansas City 9, 7 319 298
Los Angeles 7, 9 347 306
Denver 7, 9 347 306
Seattle 6, 10 287 323

National Football Conference

East division
Dallas 12, 4 414 348
New York Giants 12, 4 398 308
Philadelphia 7, 9 309 308
Washington 13, 10 320 412

Central division

Minnesota 10, 6 356 314
Detroit 9, 7 367 312
Green Bay 9, 7 362 302
Chicago 9, 7 362 302
Tampa Bay 6, 10 251 351

West division

San Francisco 13, 8 398 296
Los Angeles 7, 9 317 325
New Orleans 4, 12 266 365
Seattle 4, 12 266 365

division tie

play-off berth

COLLEGE MATCHES: Holiday Bowl

11.30pm Colorado State 14, Baylor 10.
Tennessee 43, Virginia Tech 23.
South Carolina 35, North Carolina 13.
Hawaii 30, South Carolina State 21.

ATHLETICS

DURHAM: International cross country
meeting. Men: IAAF World Challenge
(19.20m). 1. J. Kiprot (Ken) 30m, 2. A.
P. Brown (GB) 30.10, 3. S. Hissou (Mor)
30.14. Standings: 1. J. Kiprot (Ken) 30m,
2. P. Brown (GB) 30.10, 3. S. Hissou (Mor)
30.14. Open race (3.30m).
1. P. Brown (GB) 30.10, 2. A. P. Brown (GB)
30.10, 3. S. Hissou (Mor) 30.14.

ROAD RACES: Wimbledon and

Launceston (Fri). 1. J. Walker (Thames)
Hare and Hounds 22.0, 2. A. Brennan
(Sutton) 22.05, 3. D. H. Hare (Thames)
Hare and Hounds 22.05. Standings: 1. J. Walker (Thames)
Hare and Hounds 22.0, 2. A. Brennan (Sutton)
22.05, 3. D. H. Hare (Thames) Hare and Hounds
22.05. Standings: 1. J. Walker (Thames) Hare and Hounds
22.0, 2. A. Brennan (Sutton) 22.05, 3. D. H. Hare (Thames)
Hare and Hounds 22.05.

BIRMINGHAM: National indoor

gymnastics. Men: 1. M. Paves (Austria)
22.0, 2. M. Paves (Austria) 22.0, 3. M. Paves (Austria)
22.0. Standings: 1. M. Paves (Austria) 22.0, 2. M. Paves (Austria)
22.0, 3. M. Paves (Austria) 22.0.

NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

(NBA): Cleveland 87, Atlanta 116.
Indiana 96, New Jersey 78. Orlando 116,
Washington 101. Boston 124, Detroit 107.
New York 80, Minnesota 81. Chicago 81,
Golden State 84. Charlotte 101, Milwaukee 81.
Dallas 127, LA Lakers 114. LA Lakers 127,
Sacramento 115. Philadelphia 82.

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

(NBA): Cleveland 87, Atlanta 116.

Indiana 96, New Jersey 78. Orlando 116,

Washington 101. Boston 124, Detroit 107.

New York 80, Minnesota 81. Chicago 81,

Golden State 84. Charlotte 101, Milwaukee 81.

Dallas 127, LA Lakers 114. LA Lakers 127,

Sacramento 115. Philadelphia 82.

Philadelphia 82.

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SAO PAULO: Sao Silvestre road race:

15km: 1. R. da Costa (Br) 44m
11.5m. 2. S. Gueira (Copa) 44.14, 3. S. Gueira (Copa) 44.22, 4. V. Cardozo (Br) 44.24, 5. A. Abreu (Br) 44.53. Women:
1. D. T. T. (Br) 11.17, 2. J. Kimura (Br) 11.18, 3. M. de C. (Br) 11.19, 4. M. de C. (Br) 11.20, 5. M. de C. (Br) 11.21. 50km:
1. S. Gueira (Copa) 52.46, 2. S. Gueira (Copa) 52.46, 3. S. Gueira (Copa) 52.46, 4. S. Gueira (Copa) 52.46, 5. S. Gueira (Copa) 52.46.

ROAD RACES: Wimbledon and

Launceston (Fri). 1. J. Walker (Thames)
Hare and Hounds 22.0, 2. A. Brennan
(Sutton) 22.05, 3. D. H. Hare (Thames)
Hare and Hounds 22.05. Standings: 1. J. Walker (Thames)
Hare and Hounds 22.0, 2. A. Brennan (Sutton)
22.05, 3. D. H. Hare (Thames) Hare and Hounds
22.05. Standings: 1. J. Walker (Thames) Hare and Hounds
22.0, 2. A. Brennan (Sutton) 22.05, 3. D. H. Hare (Thames)
Hare and Hounds 22.05.

BIRMINGHAM: National indoor

gymnastics. Men: 1. M. Paves (Austria)
22.0, 2. M. Paves (Austria) 22.0, 3. M. Paves (Austria)
22.0. Standings: 1. M. Paves (Austria) 22.0, 2. M. Paves (Austria)
22.0, 3. M. Paves (Austria) 22.0.

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(NBA): Cleveland 87, Atlanta 116.
Indiana 96, New Jersey 78. Orlando 116,
Washington 101. Boston 124, Detroit 107.
New York 80, Minnesota 81. Chicago 81,
Golden State 84. Charlotte 101, Milwaukee 81.
Dallas 127, LA Lakers 114. LA Lakers 127,
Sacramento 115. Philadelphia 82.

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

(NBA): Cleveland 87, Atlanta 116.

Indiana 96, New Jersey 78. Orlando 116,

Washington 101. Boston 124, Detroit 107.

New York 80, Minnesota 81. Chicago 81,

Golden State 84. Charlotte 101, Milwaukee 81.

Dallas 127, LA Lakers 114. LA Lakers 127,

Sacramento 115. Philadelphia 82.

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Eastern Conference

Atlantic division
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New York 15, 12 568 568
Boston 14, 17 568 568
New Jersey 12, 19 367 367
Philadelphia 10, 18 357 357
Miami 9, 19 268 268
Washington 7, 19 268 268

Central division

Cleveland 20, 8 714 714
Indiana 17, 9 564 564
Chicago 16, 12 571 571
Detroit 15, 13 508 508
Charlotte 12, 17 414 414
Atlanta 9, 17 248 248
Milwaukee 9, 18 333 333

Western Conference

Utah 19, 8 579 579
Houston 18, 9 567 567
San Antonio 16, 10 600 600
Dallas 13, 12 520 520
Denver 13, 13 519 519
Minnesota 6, 20 231 231

Pacific division

Seattle 21, 7 750 750
Portland 18, 9 567 567
LA Lakers 15, 12 556 556
Sacramento 13, 13 500 500
Golden State 10, 17 270 270
LA Clippers 4, 25 148 148

CRYSTAL PALACE: Welsh invasion

tournament. Men: 1. J. Walker (Thames)
Hare and Hounds 22.0, 2. A. Brennan
(Sutton) 22.05, 3. D. H. Hare (Thames)
Hare and Hounds 22.05. Standings: 1. J. Walker (Thames)
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Learning on the front line

The Smallpeice programme is a revolution in the development of science education, says Susan Elkin

Tracey Madden teaches science and technology at Finham Park School, Coventry. This is her first teaching post. She completed her postgraduate certificate in education (PGCE) in July. Nothing out of the ordinary thus far.

What distinguishes her from most new teachers is, first, the exceptionally high level of her own qualifications and second, her unusual route into teaching.

Dr Madden, 30, has a first degree in physics and computing from Leicester Polytechnic (now De Montfort University). Her PhD in chemical physics at London University led to a two-year research fellowship in Warwick University's chemistry department. A year working as a student study assistant at Coventry Polytechnic (now University), during which she was assigned to a partially-sighted student, convinced her that work with people was for her.

Like 80 other well-qualified graduates in 1993-94, Dr Madden's teacher training was entirely based in schools (in the West Midlands) through the Smallpeice programme, an initiative of City Technology Colleges (CTC) Trust. The programme now has six centres spread across Britain, with growing numbers of courses and student teachers.

Dr Cosby Smallpeice was an engineer and philanthropist who died in 1977. He established the trust to develop and enhance science education. With the help of the CTC Trust and the Education Department, money is being used to train science and technology teachers.

At the heart of each centre is a CTC which works in close collaboration with four or five other local secondary schools. The East Midlands Consortium, for example, is based at Brooke Weston CTC in Corby, Northamptonshire, a shining new glass and brick school. Fifteen Smallpeice students, six women and nine men, qualified here last month.



Dr Tracey Madden, a Smallpeice trainee, worked at a school for a full 40 weeks and was included in school life from the start

The Smallpeice programme is a far cry from the traditional eight or nine-month PGCE or three or four years of a BEd degree. Extensive college-based lectures, tutorials and endless theorising characterise these, and on many courses, teaching practices are mere hit-and-run bursts in school: have a brief stab at teaching and then scamper back to the comfortable cocoon of a higher education existence. The day-to-day practical realities of teaching remain remote.

By contrast, the sheer high quality and purposeful relevance of everything about the Smallpeice programme is remarkable. Trainees work in schools for a full 40 weeks, involved in school life from the very outset. Scott Marshall, 26, is a Cardiff graduate in mining engineering with a background in mining and geotechnics, now training at Corby. "We're treated like colleagues, and most of the pupils don't realise we're only trainees," he says.

Continuous teaching practice takes place on one or two days a week. Alongside that, there is formal training in areas such as

special educational needs, history of education, child development, health and safety and so on. Brooke Weston has a very businesslike lecture theatre whose use is shared between Smallpeice students and pupils. There is also a governors'

'Most of the pupils do not realise that we are only teacher trainees'

'boardroom' which doubles up as a seminar resource for Smallpeice students. Like the other five consortia, East Midlands either buys in the appropriate expertise to teach these components or uses senior staff from within the consortium. Every student's work includes a two-week placement in industry and the writing of six staff 2,000-word assignments. "It's very hard work and quite stressful," Sofia Maniar, 25, a Birmingham gradu-

ate in computing, says. "But I'm glad I did it this way."

The backbone of the Smallpeice students' year is two extended teaching practices in different schools within the consortium. A number of East Midlands Consortium students did their final teaching practice at Leicester's Vale of Camrose College, Oakham.

Samantha Corbett, 22, turned down a PGCE place at Goldsmiths' College, London, because she wanted school-based training. Regrets? None. A social science graduate of Hatfield Polytechnic (now the University of Hertfordshire), she exudes confidence and is looking forward to taking up a post as food and textiles teacher at Redborne Upper School, at Ampthill, Bedfordshire, this week.

Alan Moore, 23, also presents the smart appearance required of Smallpeice students. Armed with a physics degree from the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology, he wanted on-the-job teacher training. He starts the new term at Jack Hunt School, Peterborough, where he is to teach construction and graphics.

Everyone evinces enthusiasm. Many Brooke Weston parents are pleased that their children have daily access to a group of highly knowledgeable "extra" people. Smallpeice students enhance the school. As Peter Simpson, vice-principal of Brooke Weston, and consortium manager of the Smallpeice programme, says: "I'd be delighted for my own children to be taught by any of our Smallpeice colleagues." He has two sons at the school, so he means it.

As schools become increasingly specialised, could there not be scope for similar programmes to train modern linguists, historians, geographers, mathematicians and English specialists? When I compare the systematic, practical training which Smallpeice students are enjoying with my own shoddy three-year "training" in the Sixties I am, frankly, envious.

● To be offered a place on the Smallpeice Programme you must be under 45 and have a UK degree or its equivalent in a science or technology-related subject. Further details from CTC Trust, 9 Whitehall, London SW1A 2DD 071-530 9330.

A helping hand for stressed teachers

Blueprint for classroom ills

Work-related stress is becoming a problem in schools. Increasing numbers of teachers and heads are suffering from stress-related illnesses, and schools are receiving unprecedented requests for early retirement from their staff.

These danger signs are, however, being recognised. Some education authorities, such as Dyfed in West Wales, have begun to tackle the problem. Last term, 30 heads and teachers in the county suffered stress-related illnesses. They included 19 class teachers, two deputies and nine heads. Most came from the small rural primary sector. They stated that the causes were curriculum overload, assessment, and having to deal with management issues such as school budgets.

Convinced that it has a duty to both support its staff and create a good working environment, Dyfed established a working party to investigate the problem. The ensuing report, *Stress Report for School Staff*, is a blueprint that the authority will implement this spring.

John Ellis, director of education, says: "It tackles the problem in two ways: crisis management for existing sufferers and prevention for the future." The former will provide a confidential helpline and counselling service. A team of six to ten counsellors will man the line and provide intensive counselling.

The counsellors will be members of the authority's educational psychology team, assisted by fully trained volunteer heads and teachers. They will help teachers to work through their problems, and the hope is that such intervention will enable teachers to weather the storm.

However, the long-term solution is prevention, and in a bid to reduce a build-up of stressful situations, the authority is seeking to make its activities "stress-proof". For example, stress management courses will be introduced as part of its in-service training provision. The authority's team of advisory teachers will visit schools more often, and will provide evening surgeries if required.

In addition, specific courses will be run to help teachers and heads in small rural schools to cope with changes such as the demands of local management, and organisational issues such as the effects of information technology.

At school level, the blueprint has identified numerous improvements which could be implemented to ease teachers' trauma. Firstly, communication within schools and, most particularly, within clusters of linked small schools, should be enhanced. Teachers and heads would receive advice and support from colleagues resulting, hopefully, in improved morale and motivation.

I UNDERSTAND, ACTUALLY, I'M A BIT OVERWHELMED MYSELF...



Staff will also be helped to improve their management of time to spread their workload more evenly, enabling them to complete their duties effectively and lessen the danger of stress.

In addition to implementing these recommendations, schools will be encouraged to compile their own stress audit. They will then be able to suggest their own solutions.

Mr Ellis is convinced that once the blueprint is implemented in Dyfed, it will be emulated elsewhere in England and Wales, because the need for such support has become so pressing. "Teachers are being constantly burdened by changes," Mr Ellis says, "and unless there is someone available to help them to cope, they can feel vulnerable, worried and stressed."

IOLA SMITH

The University of Nottingham

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Informal enquiries may be made to Professor R. John Mayer, Department of Biochemistry, Tel: 0115 9709389, fax: 0115 9709989.

Further details and application forms, returnable not later than 31 January 1995, from the Director of Personnel, Personnel Office, The University of Nottingham, University Park, Nottingham NG7 2RD. Tel: 0115 9515775. Ref No MCM/002.

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THE SUNDAY TIMES

SUNDAY 29TH JANUARY 1995

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THE SUNDAY TIMES

MONDAY 30TH JANUARY 1995

16 PAGE MBA SUPPLEMENT

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ARTS
THE WEEK
AHEAD

■ VISUAL ART
Mixing with the best young Scottish artist Douglas Gordon gets his first London show at the Lisson Gallery
OPEN: Now
REVIEW: Tomorrow



■ MUSIC
Sir Michael Tippett is 90 today: a Wigmore Hall tribute tonight, with LSO and BBC seasons to follow
RECITAL: Tonight
REVIEW: Wednesday

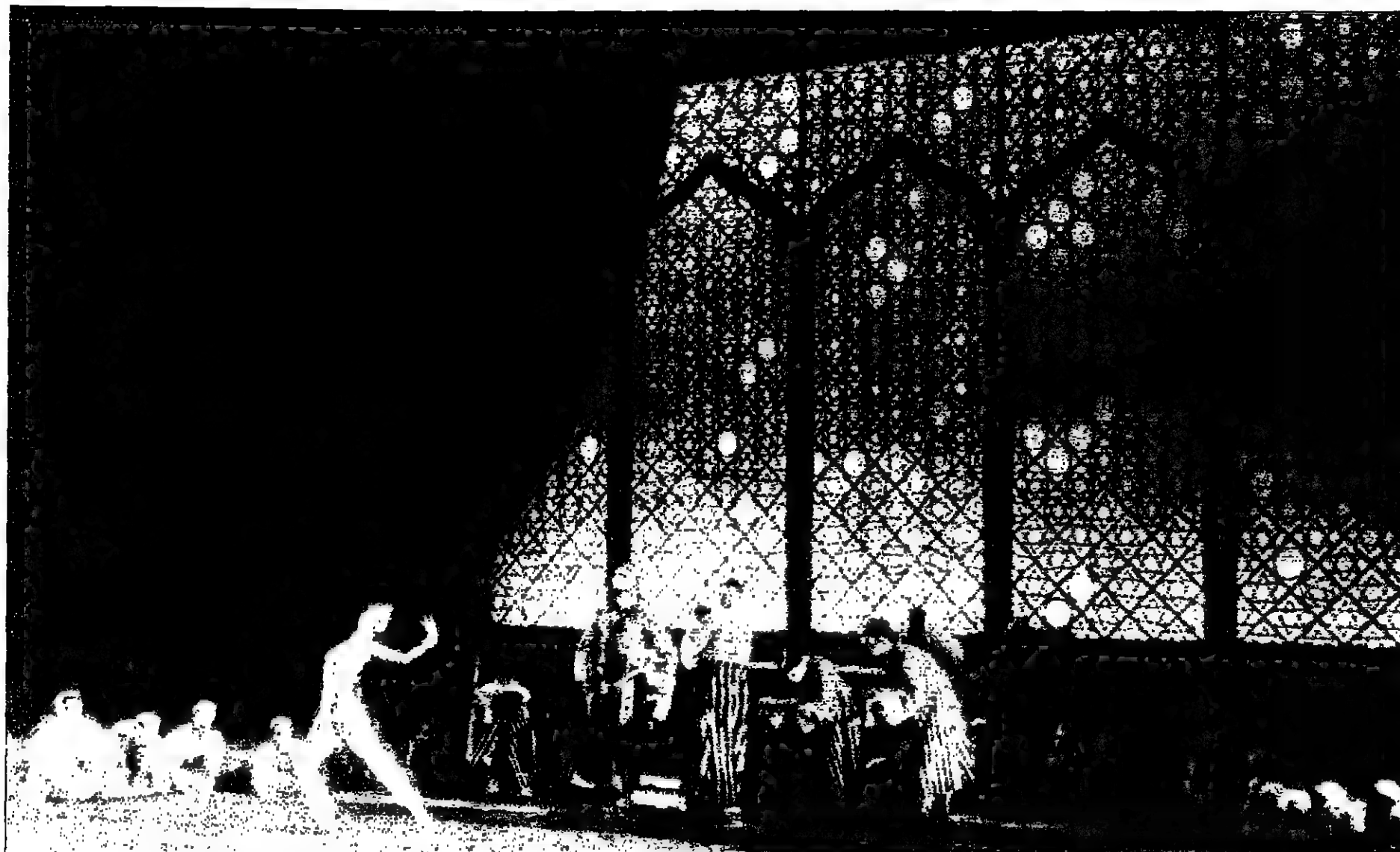


■ THEATRE
Generations and cultures collide as Winsome Pincock's play *Leave Taking* comes to the National
FIRST NIGHT: Wednesday
REVIEW: Friday



■ DANCE
Covent Garden star Darcey Bussell celebrates her new OBE with a return to *Swan Lake*, one of her best-loved roles
FIRST NIGHT: Thursday
REVIEW: Monday

Only a dribble of interest



The Kirov performs Zakharov's 1934 ballet, *The Fountain of Bakhshisarai* — said to be revived at the request of Sylvie Guillem, who danced in the Paris performances

UNLESS you have travelled to Russia (or the few other countries performing it), or saw it during the Bolshoi's London visit way back in 1956, *The Fountain of Bakhshisarai* is one of those legendary names — a ballet heard of, but unseen. The Kirov was the first to mount it, in 1934, with the same choreography by Rodislav Zakharov and music by Boris Asafiev, a production that the company has recently revived.

Now it has introduced *The Fountain of Bakhshisarai* to Paris, in a shared season with the Kirov Opera at the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées. Rumour says that it was Sylvie Guillem, making a guest appearance with the Kirov, who asked for its inclusion so she could dance it. Even with her, though, the ballet is no more than a Soviet curiosity. The Kirov's policy of reinstating older ballets deserves praise, but this time it has landed a dud.

Zakharov's choreography is banal; Asafiev's commissioned score has

DANCE: In Paris, Nadine Meisner watches the Kirov Ballet struggle to breathe fresh life into a creaky old Soviet warhorse

instant forgettability, each insipid note evaporating the moment it hits the air. But Vera Khodasevich's designs are colourfully handsome, even if the burning house in Act I is a feeble affair of crimson lighting and fluttering red ribbons.

The titular fountain symbolises Khan Girei's tears, a memorial he has erected to Maria, a Polish princess, Girei, who has a bald head and flashing Mongol eyes like Yul Brynner in *The King and I*, abducted Maria, thereby arousing the jealousy of his lover Zarema who kills her. In itself the tale, based on Pushkin, has exotic drama and poignancy, and some veterans who can recollect the Bolshoi's London performances claim they had a wholeheartedness that gave stirring convictions to this non-masterpiece. As presented by the

Kirov, though, the acting seemed wan, the dancing underpowered.

Vladimir Ponomarev's Girei managed to be both a ham and a non-entity. Yulia Makhalina has physical talent and long lines that at first suggest a Russian Guilem; but as Maria she threw all that away with an offputting manner of narcissistic decorativeness. The real Guilem followed her usual caprice of redesigning her allocated costumes; that apart, however, she offered a tremendous performance, the only one of the evening, plunging herself wholly into the part of Zarema and investing each movement with genuine belief.

Another of the ballet's many problems is Zakharov's crude staging. The lyre that Maria plays in her prison is the final saccharine touch to a cloyingly gooey-gooey character;

when Girei recoils in dated silent-movie exaggeration at the sudden sight of Maria's beauty, it is hard not to giggle. We have moved on: a thought equally prompted by the Kirov's *Nutcracker*, also shown in the season. Vasily Vainonin, when he created his version the same year Zakharov created *Bakhshisarai*, may have shaped the ramshackle scenario into more consistency, but nowadays the choreography seems thin, the stage effects feeble, the battle scene skimpy. This was the *Nutcracker* Nureyev knew from his Kirov days; and he built on it for his own productions. Seeing it, you realise just how much he improved things.

What Nureyev preserved unchanged, though, was Vainonin's delicious interpretation of the Kingdom of Sweets' Mirlitons music as an

18th-century pastiche. The Kingdom of Sweets (which the Kirov has brought here in a mixed bill) is the production's most satisfying section, enhanced in Paris by Alroyal Asyuraatava dancing the dual role of Masha (or Clara as we call her) and the Sugar Plum Fairy for the first time since she was a student. She swapped her enchanting girlish prettiness for Masha for the ballerina poise and elegance of a Sugar Plum Fairy who in Vainonin's conception is truly the epicentre, supported not by one but five cavaliers.

Andrei Yakovlev has long legs which, as the Nutcracker Prince, he struggled to keep under control. Disappointingly, both the boys and girls were played by adult women instead of children, which looked mightily unconvincing. The dancing overall was only average: an adjective I never thought I would use about the Kirov. I hope it was because half the company was busy performing in Japan.

OPERA REVIEWS

Detour for an amazing lady

Tosca
Grand, Leeds

IN the operatic world there are few pearls of greater price than a really good staff producer, someone willing and able to restage the work of others faithfully, discreetly and efficiently. They do exist, and I could name names, but will desist lest it result in an unseemly outbreak of poaching among opera house managements. This darkness of thought is occasioned by experience of Friday's revival of *Tosca* by Opera North. Six years ago they launched an elegant, witty yet essentially serious new production of Puccini's melodrama by Ian Judge; now they have just another *Tosca*.

Judge, still listed in the programme though Jonathan Alver is credited as "director", set the action at roughly the time of composition in the pre-First World War world of John Buchan, with Scarpia as much an impeccably groomed Foreign Office type as a representative of Scotland Yard, and Tosca a Terezin-style prima donna. Details of costume and much of the action have been changed, and Buchan reduced to the level of William Le Queux. What was once elegant now seems merely tacky.

There is also a prominent new role (silent, perforce) for the Marchesa Attavanti, who carelessly gets herself arrested during the Te Deum and is being given a going-over by Scarpia's henchmen at second-act curtain-rise, and a version of Cavaradossi's execution not nearly as good as Puccini's.

This "goodness, aren't I clever" approach unfortunately spread over the conducting. The young Italian Stefano Ranzani started promisingly enough, achieving fine balance, easy audibility of the words (Italian), and in general refreshingly free of routine. But his decidedly Mattherian handling of Tosca's first-act exit music and lethargic speed for the Te Deum, sounded several warning notes, all too soon answered: the second act got slower and slower, and when we got to "E lucevan le stelle" I thought it would have been prudent of the manage-

ment to have issued us with sleeping bags.

Luckily there were a pair of fine performances. Josephine Barstow has now been singing professionally for 30 years, yet so youthful was her sound, so easy her traversal of phrases before which other prima donnas quail, that you might think she started last week — were it not for the maturity and assurance of her characterisation. She somehow is Tosca: impetuous, naïve, tender and fatally trusting.

Patrick Power wisely declined to force his essentially lyric tenor, delivering a properly stentorian "Vittoria!" but otherwise singing with sweetness and musicianship. Matthew Best's beetle-like Scarpia, more Dr Crippen than Beria, looked like a development of his memorable Pizarro-as-neurotic at Edinburgh last year: it was a nice try, an interesting preliminary sketch, but given the character's music I am not convinced it will ever quite work.

This *Tosca* is not, sadly, what it was, but in Michelin terms it is at least worth a detour for the amazing Barstow.

RODNEY MILNES



Josephine Barstow: a brilliant performance

Singers' Cinders

La cenerentola
Queen Elizabeth Hall

CANNY folk, those Music Theatre London people. Each year just after Christmas they bring to eager turkey-bloated Londoners a low-budget production of a popular opera.

They make it very much their own by arranging it for a tiny band, throwing out recitative and replacing it with dialogue, and giving it not so much in an English translation as with an entirely new text, riddled with corny rhymes and jokes and 1990s language. The odd thing is that these wholesale acts of heresy perpetrated by the translators and arrangers Nicholas Broadhurst (director) and Tony Britten (conductor) actually work.

In this case the victim was Rossini's *La cenerentola*. Simon Higlett's designs update the work to the present time. Giddily angled walls and a shattered proscenium frame the stage which, with its brightly coloured swimming pool and formal garden scenes, resembles a Hockney canvas. True to the traditions of pantomime, the ugly sisters, Clorinda and Tisbe, were played by men in drag, and stole the show. Simon Butteriss made a convincing, decidedly ugly Joan Collins lookalike as Clorinda: William Relton, as Tisbe, was more the convincing pantomime dame, gorging himself on cake and ale for rather champagne throughout.

Just to confuse us further, the production converted the role of the handsome prince Don Ramiro into a breeches part, Elena Ferrari, as ample of thigh as of stature she was

not, certainly did not fit my idea of a handsome prince. Her chauffeur, I mean servant — Dandini, sung by Harry Burton, looked more the part in his splendid Highland dress.

Some of the singing was less than adequate. Here, for example, Andrew C. Wadsworth as Alidoro showed himself master of the magician's minimal gesture — a faint click of finger or rise of eyebrow — but a tenor of little voice and less technique. That you cannot get away with in Rossini.

On the other side of the coin, Tim Hardy's Don Magnifico — a wide boy with an East End accent that curiously varied — has a large voice in need of taming. But Ian Hartley's Cinderella showed a shining control of timbre and colouratura, and she gauged her acting well: the pathos was not over-done. The others sang more or less serviceably, although the gender-swapping played havoc with Rossini's textures.

So did Tony Britten's rescoring of the music for an often feeble-sounding instrumental octet. Much of the glory of Rossini lies in his colours; to repeat them like this is akin to creating a paint-by-numbers cartoon from a Rembrandt. Nevertheless Britten's conducting maintained the impetus.

STEPHEN PETTITT

Touches of style

RECITAL

Bernard D'Ascoli
Wigmore Hall

WHAT better to cleanse the palate of Christmas superfluity than a programme of late Chopin? Refinement, expressive grace, and always that melancholy underflow: Chopin's music may be fastidiously calculated but it has a natural poetic spontaneity.

Bernard D'Ascoli's programme was taken from the last five years of Chopin's life: beginning with the *Polonaise-Fantaisie* in A flat and ending with the B minor Sonata, he took in nine Mazurkas, two Nocturnes, three Waltzes and the *Barcarolle*. By no means all, however, were executed with the subtle nuances of colour and rhythm that characterise the greatest Chopin playing. The *Polonaise-Fantaisie* in particular had a dull, earthbound quality.

The *Barcarolle* too, with its gently rocking rhythms, opened promisingly, but continued in more monolithic vein, with blocks of colour rather than variegated textures. Occasional flights of poetic fantasy in the *Barcarolle* were evident also in the two Op 62 Nocturnes. No 1 in B major and No 2 in E major, though opportunities for modulations of colour were not sufficiently taken.

The last tempo of the Op 64 Waltzes seemed to have an expressive rather than purely



Bernard D'Ascoli: missing some of Chopin's nuances

virtuoso function: their lightness of touch had a ghostly quality. Sometimes too in the chosen Mazurkas there was a flash of inspiration or an effective switch of colour that made one wish for more consistent attention to such details.

The lyrical second subject of the B minor Sonata's first movement had a nicely floated singing line, and there was a good balance here between the music's introspective and rhetorical modes. The Scherzo and finale were both delivered with devastating accuracy and considerable sense of style, lacking only those elusive nuances of colour and rhythm to raise them to greatness.

BARRY MILLINGTON

WHATEVER happened to Ariel Dorfman? Since the West End production of his *Death and the Maiden* won the 1992 Olivier Award the 32-year-old playwright has not been much in evidence. But in 1995 he will, it seems, be everywhere. First comes the film of *Death and the Maiden* this spring, with Ben Kingsley and Sigourney Weaver. Then the Traverse Theatre in Edinburgh mounts two of his plays, *Reader and Widows*, in the summer and autumn.

But most intriguing of all will be Dorfman's new BBC screenplay, as yet untitled. Those who saw *Death and the Maiden* may find the story somewhat familiar: it is about a former British prisoner-of-war in Thailand who finds the man who tormented him. "It is a sort of continuation," says Dorfman about his new script, which is co-written with his 27-year-old son Rodrigo.

THE pop groups *Eternal*, *Take That* and *Blur* are among the favourites who are expected to carry off trophies at this year's Brit Awards, to be presented in London on February 20 and broadcast on television the following evening. Nominations will be announced at the Hard Rock Cafe in London next Monday. Meanwhile the rock weekly NME will again pre-empt the record industry's night of mutual back-slapping by handing out its own Brit Awards on January 24.

Ariel writes a sequel

OVERTURES

The Danish dance star Whigfield has become only the third woman in chart history to sell more than a million copies of a single in Britain. Thanks to "Saturday Night", the super-anxious Euro-hit which ended Wet Wet Wets 15-week run at No 1, she joins Jennifer Rush ("The Power Of Love") and Whitney Houston ("I Will Always Love You") in the super-league of sales achievers.

ONE of Britain's brightest young composers, Judith Weir, has been appointed as Fairbairn Composer in Association to Simon Rattle's City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. Her appointment, running for three years from this month, follows the orchestra's successful four-year collaboration with Mark Anthony Turnage. The first fruit of the new link will be the premiere in Birmingham on March 5 of Weir's intriguingly titled *Musicians Wrestle Everywhere*. "I feel we are all in for a real

adventure," Rattle said, about Weir's appointment.

VETERAN folkies Fairport Convention, now in their 28th year, mark the release of the new album *Jewel In The Crown* (named after their favourite take-away curry house) by embarking on a 30-date tour of England this month. First date will be at Leamington's Spa Centre on January 20, and the map will be covered comprehensively before the band reaches the Oxford Apollo on February 18.

HOLLYWOOD's Golden Globe nominations, announced over the holidays and usually taken to be a fair indication of where the Oscars will be heading, have the familiar quotient of British names — although they are as interesting for their omissions as their inclusions. Miranda Richardson received two nominations, for best actress in *Tom and Viv* and for supporting actress in a television film, *Fatherland*. Hugh Grant, as expected, is up for *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, as is that film's screenwriter Richard Curtis. Overlooked: Rosemary Harris, also for *Tom and Viv*, who is thought to be a contender for the best supporting actress Oscar, and the entire cast of *The Madness of King George*, which was swept aside in a chauvinistic burst of enthusiasm for *Forrest Gump* and *Pulp Fiction*.

ISLE BE AT TIPPETT'S BIRTHDAY.

Fair Isle

TIPPETT CONDUCTS THE BBC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA. TODAY AT 2:30PM.
'MUSIC FOR A WHILE' CELEBRATES TIPPETT AND PURCELL AT 7:30PM.

COLIN CAMPBELL

the plot of Stella Gibbon's *John Schlemmer*, cheerful. *Stardust* is as unlikely as a

whispers left out the "A's" and "Ooh's" and "Titter ye no'ts," he complained about it: if they put them in, he said "Leave the spontaneous remarks to me". Arguably, however, this arrangement left his mind clear to concentrate on performance — and as a performer, there will never be anyone remotely like him.

100

- _____

- ## A Mind to Murder

- _____

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- 2.45-4.35 FILM:** *Girl! Girl! Girl!* (1962) starring Elvis Presley, Laurel Goodwin and Stella Stevens. A musical about a tuna fisherman whose heartbreak at being forced to sell his boat is tempered by finding true love with a rich girl pretending to be poor. Directed by Norman Taurog (815086)

100

- PICK ONE**

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- Beverly Hills Cop (7084802) 4.00 FILM 1

- 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676, 2677, 2678, 2679, 26

1. *Journal of Management Studies*, 1990, 27, 1, 1-14.

MONDAY JANUARY 2 1995

BUSINESS EDITOR LINDSAY COOK

Bombers strike at banker aiming to buy Polly Peck assets



Nadir: debt pressure

By COLIN NARBROUGH

A BOMB has blasted the Nicosia bank owned by Mehmet Cevi, the Turkish Cypriot politician who is seeking to buy the entire assets in northern Cyprus of the collapsed Polly Peck International. Police defused a second bomb.

Chris Barlow, of Coopers & Lybrand, administrators of PPI, the lemon-to-electronics enterprise that collapsed in 1990 with debts of £1.3 billion, was outraged by news of the bombing of Everest Bankasi.

Mr Barlow said that the action, early on New Year's Eve, followed a series of anonymous telephone threats during the week to the administrators' lawyer in Nicosia, warning him to back off from the discussions over the sale to Mr Cevi of PPI's

local assets. The book value of the assets is estimated at about £50 million.

The bomb damaged the frontage of the bank, but it is understood that there were no casualties. The police were unable to say who was responsible for the bombing.

Mr Barlow saw the bombing as escalation of violent tactics used to try to thwart the administrators' efforts to gain control of PPI's assets in northern Cyprus and Turkey. He said that it was a "strange coincidence" that the attack came shortly after news of discussions with Mr Cevi — highlighted in *The Times* last Friday — surfaced in the media in northern Cyprus.

An accountant working for Coopers on the PPI administration in Turkey was shot last year, and an employee was beaten up. The car of a lawyer working for the administra-

tors in northern Cyprus, was set on fire. The administrators working in northern Cyprus are now protected by ex-SAS bodyguards.

According to Mr Barlow, the northern Cyprus government had to decide whether it wanted the rule of law to prevail or "mafiosi and gangster" elements.

Should Mr Cevi secure the PPI portfolio, which includes two luxury hotels, a fruit packing business and a packaging plant, his controversial plan is to install Asil Nadir, the fugitive founder of PPI, to run the companies, although Mr Nadir still faces charges in the UK of stealing £34 million.

Coopers & Lybrand with the northern Cyprus to hold a meeting with the northern Cyprus government last Friday to discuss the government's decision to allow Mr Nadir to run the luxury hotels owned by a PPI

offshoot, Voyager Kibris, after the administrators had paid the outstanding ground rent to the tourism ministry.

The government's decision disappointed the administrators, who had seen the formal receipt of rent arrears as an important step towards the government's acknowledgement of the legal right of PPI's subsidiaries to gain control of their businesses from Mr Nadir.

The administrators have accused Mr Nadir, who, in 1993, jumped £3.5 million bail in Britain, of being involved in the two attacks on Coopers & Lybrand staff in Turkey. Mr Nadir has dismissed the allegations and has said that his bodyguards' role is to prevent him being kidnapped by the British authorities, who have no powers to have him extradited.

A source close to the Nicosia authorities

said yesterday that the bombing of Everest may have been the work of former depositors. Mr Cevi took over Everest in 1993, after it went bankrupt. According to the source, reports that Mr Cevi is discussing a major acquisition may have prompted former depositors who lost money to implement a revenge attack.

Mr Nadir last week had to sell residential property in northern Cyprus, including his mother's house, to pay a £250,000 first instalment of his estimated £7 million debt to the government. Pressure on Mr Nadir from the government to settle his local debts has mounted, but his close ties with Rauf Denktas, president of northern Cyprus, are believed to have helped him to strike deals with the government that allow him to continue running local PPI businesses.

SFO's future in peril over Guinness case

By MELVYN MARCUS, CITY EDITOR

THE Serious Fraud Office's failure to make evidence concerning the TWH Licensed Dealers Tribunal available to the "Guinness Four" is expected to have widespread repercussions, conceivably affecting the SFO's independence, already under threat.

The decision by Michael Howard, Home Secretary, to refer the Guinness convictions to the Court of Appeal is widely seen as the last straw for the SFO, which, under the direction of Barbara Mills, was forced to abandon two out of four Guinness trials, which are estimated to have cost the taxpayer upwards of £27 million.

Rex Davies, a former Cabinet Office official, is shortly expected to complete his review of the report on the SFO carried out last year by John

Graham, the Treasury official who effectively recommended an amalgam of the SFO with the Crown Prosecution Service's fraud investigation unit.

Mr Davies' report is due to be passed to Sir Nicholas Lyell, the Attorney General, later this month. In the wake of a series of High Court disasters, including the Blue Arrow case, the Metropolitan Police and the City of London Police are reputed to be broadly supportive of Mr Graham's call for a major shake-up of the SFO. Speculation mounted over the weekend that Mr Davies' recommendations may well concur with Mr Graham's conclusions.

George Staple, director of the SFO, has emphasised that his department will strenuously oppose the Guinness appeals, which relate to the

convictions of Ernest Saunders, Guinness's former chairman, the businessmen Gerald Ronson and Jack Lyons, and Anthony Parnes, a former stockbroker.

The SFO insists that the TWH findings were not relevant to the Guinness defendants.

This perspective is entirely at odds with the claims of lawyers acting for the Guinness Four and with the recent claim by Lord Spens, a defendant in the second Guinness trial, that if the TWH information had been made available, "none of the defendants in the first trial would have been convicted".

Findings of the 1988 TWH Tribunal, chaired by Lord Grantham, QC, include the statement that "many leading banks, solicitors and stockbrokers at the time with which we are concerned did not appreciate that indemnity share transactions effected during an offer period in the shares of a company involved in the takeover were required to be disclosed by the [Takeover] Code".

Other findings relating to TWH share transactions in seven publicly quoted companies on a "no profit, no loss" basis include: "There is nothing intrinsically improper in the purchase and sale of shares in the market under an indemnity arrangement entered into between the dealer and a third party. In principle, there is little or no difference between such a transaction and a purchase in the name of a nominee".

The SFO describes the evidence as "unusual material" that was "not regarded as relevant" at the time of the Guinness trial.

Further potential embarrassment for the Government looms with Saunders's separate appeal to the European Court of Human Rights. The European Commission on Human Rights has already found that the compulsory powers enjoyed by the DTI were "oppressive" and deprived Saunders of "a fair hearing". Should Saunders succeed in Strasbourg, this would open the way for a flurry of further appeals.



Comeback man: Gerald Ratner's hopes of a return to retailing have been postponed yet again. Mr Ratner, former head of the Ratners jewellery chain, has been a consultant to a consortium developing a US-style factory outlet shopping centre at Tobacco Dock, east London. The development was scheduled to start trading before Christmas but, as yet, no shops

have opened. The launch had already been delayed from last April and the project's failure to open for Christmas is a setback. Factory outlets are big business in the US and this type of shopping is expected to expand rapidly in the UK, with it centres due to open this year. Tobacco Dock has found it difficult to attract tenants but hopes to open later this year.

Lloyd's names face £1bn loss

By SARAH BAGNALL, INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

LLOYD'S of London's names, who have suffered losses of more than £7 billion in the space of four years, face further losses of £1 billion this summer before the insurance market returns to profit.

The loss relates to 1992's underwriting experience and compares with last summer's £2.01 billion loss, reflecting relatively few catastrophes with the exception of Hurricane Andrew which caused extensive damage in Florida.

The outcome for 1993 is expected to show a sharp improvement. Analysts are predicting a return to the black with profits estimated at £300 million-£800 million. Such profits relate only to those syndicates trading in 1992 and will not benefit thousands of names who have been forced to cease underwriting.

Forecasts for 1992 have deteriorated recently, partly reflecting the poor performance

of the gilt-edged and other bond markets during the first half of 1994, which will affect investment returns.

Chaset, the independent Lloyd's analyst, expects Lloyd's to suffer a "pure year" loss of about £135 million for 1992. This compares with Oakwood Underwriting Agencies' estimate of something between £93 million profit and £392 million loss.

Both Chaset's and Oakwood's forecasts exclude any further losses in relation to 1991 and prior years. This embraces deficits incurred by syndicates that have not been able to close via reinsurance because their future liabilities are not quantifiable.

These losses totalled £1.4 billion in 1991 but are expected to be less for 1992. In addition, uncalculated losses in respect of 1990 and 1991 are estimated at £2.4 billion — demands for which loom on the horizon.

UK job market 'one of freest in OECD'

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BRITAIN'S labour market is now one of the most deregulated in the industrialised world, according to a confidential analysis by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

Ministers will see the OECD report on the UK labour market as international recognition of their reform of one of the economy's most difficult areas.

However, Labour will seize on it as evidence that British employees now have the low-

est protection of any workers in the major industrialised countries, and will attack its suggestion of the adoption in Britain of US-style workfare.

The OECD report, obtained by *The Times*, says that reforms since the early 1980s have had the effect of "arguably making the UK labour market one of the least regulated in Europe, if not the entire OECD area".

Policies for jobs, page 30

Far East tariff change attacked

By COLIN NARBROUGH, WORLD TRADE CORRESPONDENT

CLAIMS by the Government that Britain stands to gain more than most from the world trade agreement, which came into force yesterday, contrasted with criticism that tariff changes will mean higher prices for many goods from the Far East.

Michael Heseltine, President of the Board of Trade, said the Uruguay round pact and the new World Trade Organisation (WTO) it creates represented the "best possible boost to economic recovery". He said gains from the agreement, estimated to add more than \$330 billion to annual world income after ten years, would be felt immediately.

Along with removal of tariffs and alignment of trade rules under the pact, European Union ministers have agreed to remove the favourable trading status of a number of Asian economies. But PMS International, one of

Britain's largest importers of toys and novelties, said it was forced to raise prices after it was told of the tariff changes on December 20.

Sir Teddy Taylor, Conservative MP for Southend and a Eurosceptic, said Brussels had delivered a "very nasty new year present".

The new system is intended to be more predictable than the old one and allow imports without quota restriction. A DTI spokesman said: "People know what they will pay and the system will run for four years."

The WTO faces numerous obstacles, including lack of consensus on the membership of China. China announced a series of retaliatory measures at the weekend after America, which opposed its WTO membership, placed \$2.5 billion worth of Chinese goods on a tentative list for punitive tariffs.

Pension funds show 4% loss

By MARTIN WALLER, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

LAST year proved one of the worst for the British pension fund industry in almost two decades, with the average fund suffering a loss of 4 per cent of its worth.

According to WM Company, the investment performance consultant, the dismal 1994 performance contrasted with the excellent out-turn in 1993, but the return over a two-year period still averaged 11 per cent a year during a period when inflation has been averaging 2 per cent.

Last year heralded a strong performance from the British

property market, with returns of 13 per cent, but bonds offered a negative return of 10 per cent, while equities returned 6 per cent.

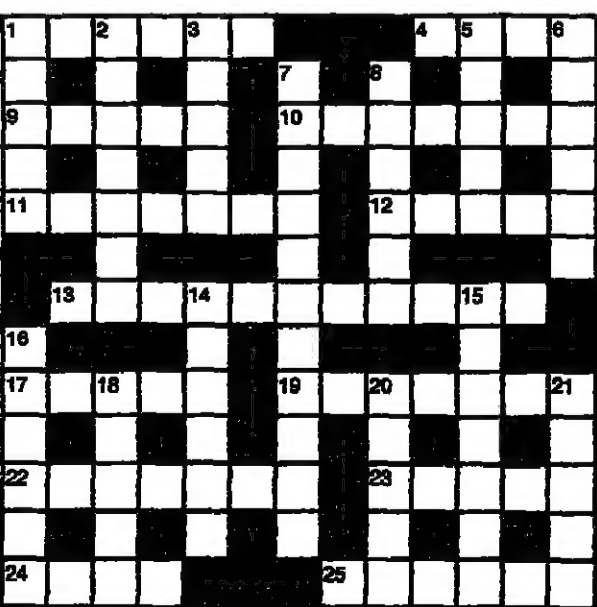
Overseas markets failed to build on their sparkling performance in 1993, says WM Company, and showed an overall negative return of 2 per cent.

The exception was Japan, where investments managed to increase in value by 17 per cent. Other Pacific markets, however, reversed 1993 gains to show a 16 per cent fall.

Peter Warrington, a director

of WM Company, said 1994 was only the second year of negative returns since measurement of funds began in 1975. In 1990, the worth of British pension funds fell by almost 11 per cent.

□ The United Kingdom and Germany will top the European economic growth league in 1995, according to Roger Bootle and the economics unit at HSBC, which controls the Midland Bank. Growth in Europe and Japan is set to pick up, HSBC predicts, allowing the international recovery to gather pace.



SOLUTION TO TIMES TWO NEW YEAR CROSSWORD

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 358

ACROSS

- 1 Systematic plan; plot (6)
- 4 Twirl (4)
- 9 Uniform coat; loose sleeveless garment (5)
- 10 Take in air (7)
- 11 Obtain money by deception (7)
- 12 Regal (5)
- 13 Deserving opprobrium for fault (11)
- 17 Desert waterhole (5)
- 19 Labour painfully (7)
- 22 Regular payment for insurance (7)
- 23 Fairy-tale author brothers (5)
- 24 Irritate (4)

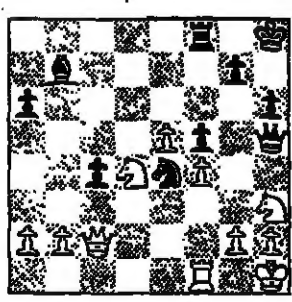
DOWN

- 2 Well-lit; intelligent (6)
- 1 Replete (5)
- 2 All one can hold; one difficult to manage (7)
- 3 Moslem pilgrimage city (5)
- 5 Glazier's paste (5)
- 6 Sewing implement; rivalry (6)
- 7 Cup Final hymn (5,4,2)
- 8 Panic (6)
- 14 One out of place (6)
- 15 Chapter, column title (7)
- 16 Vex; small coin (6)
- 18 Period; enchantment (5)
- 20 Rage (5)
- 21 Boundary (5)

This position is from the game Torres — Alekhine, Seville 1922. How did Alekhine, Black to play, finish with a brilliant coup?

Solution, page 18
Raymond Keene, page 5

The winners of the weekly competition published on Saturday, December 24 are: J F Allen, Stowmarket, Suffolk; I Pether, Epsom, Surrey; J W Richards, Thetford, Norfolk.



By Philip Howard

UROLAGNIA

- a. A wind instrument
- b. Pleasure from urination
- c. A mineral water

VITRAIN

- a. An area of the brain
- b. A leather dog lead
- c. A type of coal

TEEM

- a. To drain water
- b. Suffolk for the screech owl
- c. To strike

VELETA

- a. A land mine
- b. A bland cheese
- c. A ballroom dance

Answers on page 18

SALE

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	Royal Scot	071 278 2834	
	Near King's Cross & Euston	****	
£29.50	Charing Cross	071 899 7282	CHILDREN WELCOME!
	The Strand	****	Sharing a room with 2 adults
	The Kingsley	071 242 5881	Single room with breakfast
	Boomsbury	****	6-15 years £2 each per breakfast
£34.50	Mount Royal	071 629 8040	Ask your Travel Agent to book through Highlights on 0200 700 400 or call the hotel of your choice. Please quote reference RS TT0201
	Marble Arch overlooking Oxford Street	NEWLY REFURBISHED	

Prices per person per night based on 2 people sharing a double or twin room. Minimum stay 1 night except Saturday. No single occupancy. Bookings subject to availability. All details correct at time of going to press.

PRICES VALID 3rd-13th January

Mount Charlotte Hotels